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THE ALLEGED FRENCH ASSASSINATION PLOT.

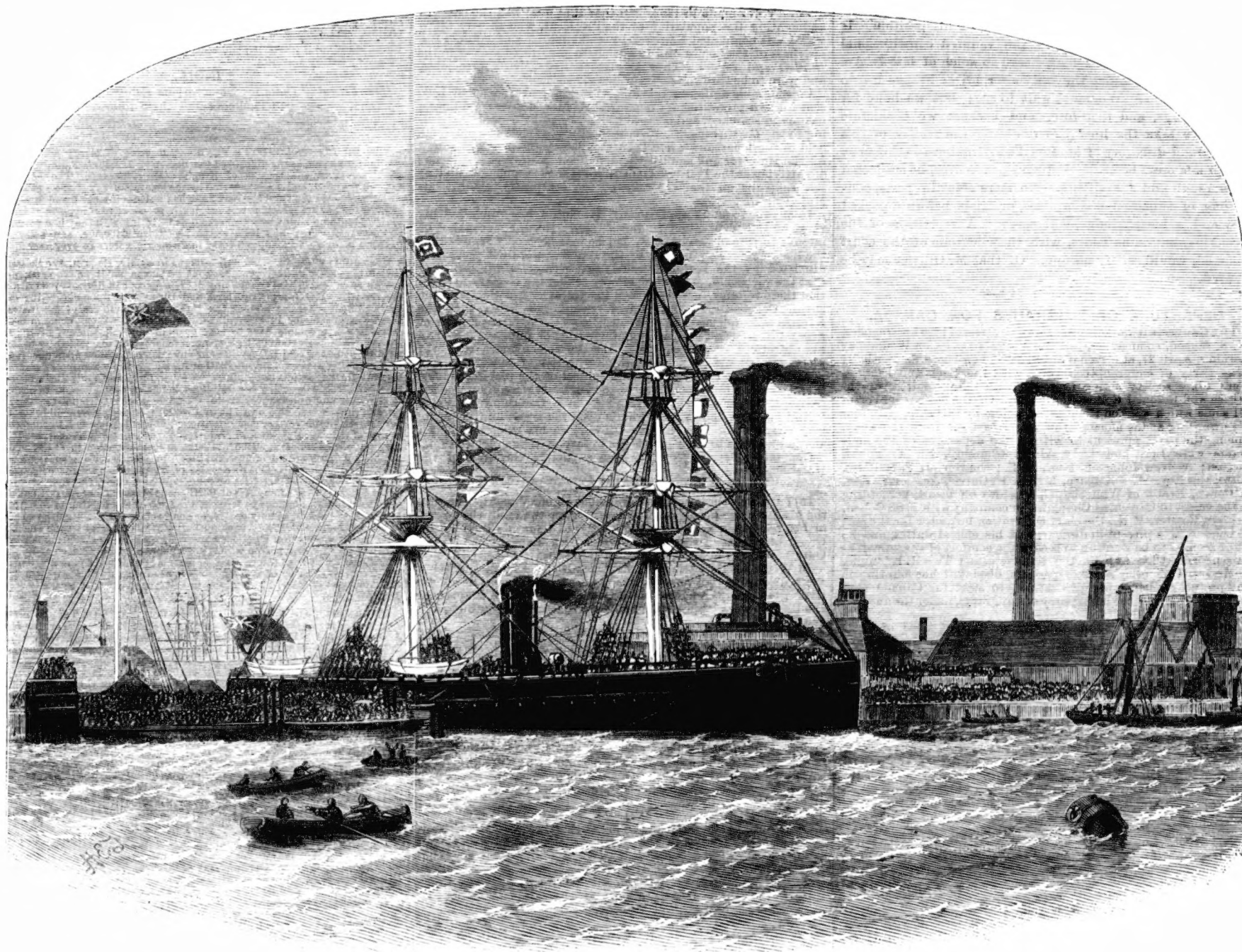
A FORTUNATE man is the Emperor of the French. All things work together for his good; even the machinations of his enemies turning out to his advantage. Conspiracies against his government and plots against his life are continually being hatched, or, at least, discovered; and yet his person remains uninjured, and his government but little endangered. A well-served man, too, is the Emperor, both by his friends and his enemies; for, while the latter concoct plots at the most convenient time—for his Majesty, that is—his friends never fail to discover said plots, and to extract capital from them. A more than ordinary share of the "divinity that doth hedge" an Emperor appears to surround Napoleon III.; an especially special Providence seems to watch over him; if, indeed, he does not himself constitute the providence, and his agents fabricate the dangers from which he is always so opportunely delivered.

It is no use, Messieurs the Republicans and Irreconcilables, for you to conspire, to hire assassins, to construct terrible bombs in Paris, or to buy scarcely less terrible revolvers from Belgium, against the Emperor of the French; you are sure to be found out, and his Majesty is as certain to enter into your labours, and to profit by your misdeeds; and that, too, whether or not you really have had anything to do with the plots, the bombs, the revolvers, and the assassins. The police are ever on your track, and never fail

to make a discovery—exactly when a discovery is needed, and will help on the measures on which his Majesty has set his heart. Moreover, your evil imaginings invariably redound, as, of course, they should, to the advantage of him against whom they are aimed. Have you not had abundant proof of this in the past, and will you still continue to play this foolish game of conspiracy and would-be assassination, which never forwards your objects, but always strengthens the hands of your intended victim? Did not you, or your predecessors, conspire against the life of Louis Napoleon, Prince-President of the second French Republic, and did not that conspiracy only help to convert the Prince-President into the Emperor? Did you not conspire, futilely, on sundry other occasions—notably in February last, when Rochefort was seditious and Prince Pierre Bonaparte was persecuted about that Victor Noir affair? And have you not conspired now—or, which is the same thing, has not a conspiracy been discovered—to take the Emperor's life, in order to hinder the acceptance of the plébiscite?—the only likely results of your conspiracy being to swell by half a million or so the vote by which the plébiscite was sure to be accepted in spite of you, and to fill the French prisons with suspected persons—to the profound grief, no doubt, of his Majesty and his Majesty's Ministers! Shallow and incorrigible men, will you never comprehend—if you have any volition in the matter—that the French police are too acute for you; and that plots, assassins, bombs, and

revolvers are harmless against a Sovereign so well-beloved and so carefully guarded as is the Emperor Napoleon III.? You cannot conquer "Cæsar and his fortunes" by such means as these, and had better therefore abandon the thought at once and for ever. Again, we say, the Emperor is a fortunate man. Why, the Orsini bombs alone—the only ones, by-the-way, that have ever been *proved* to have really existed—must have rendered his Majesty as good service as forty thousand chassepots could have done!

Seriously, though we have a thorough contempt for secret conspirators and a profound horror of assassins, we cannot bring ourselves to be much disquieted by this last-discovered assassination plot in France. We have heard of so many similar conspiracies there that never came to proof—that were "discoveries," and nothing more—that, till further evidence is produced, we cannot resist the temptation to rank this last discovery in the same category. The French police have such a wonderful talent for finding out plots in the very nick of time to serve political purposes, that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they are much like men who, having hidden, know where to seek. We do not say that the whole story is an invention of the police—we wait for proofs; but we do say that the discovery is so marvellously opportune as to be open to grave suspicion; that the details have a wonderful resemblance to those alleged on previous occasions, showing that either the



THE EMIGRANT-SHIP GANGES DEPARTING FOR CANADA.

conspirators or their trackers are somewhat barren of invention; and that, at all events, the alleged objects of the plot have been enormously exaggerated. Not only was the Emperor to be killed, but the Tuileries and the adjacent buildings—in fact, a considerable portion of Paris—were to be blown up; and all this on the suggestion of poor, foolish, hot-headed Gustave Flourens skulking somewhere in the vicinity of Leicester-square, London, and through the instrumentality, chiefly, of a convicted felon and deserter, quite as likely to become a police spy and tool as the murderer of one of the most powerful Sovereigns in Europe.

There may be men in France, and French exiles out of it, who, under the influence of political excitement, are capable of engaging in most desperate enterprises; but in this case the means seem woefully disproportioned to the ends alleged to have been contemplated. Gustave Flourens has shown himself to be a rash man; but even Paul de Cassagnac, who has tried his mettle in a duel, and is no mean judge in such matters, declares him to be brave and incapable of playing the part of a cowardly assassin—much less that of the still more cowardly instigator of assassination in which he should himself bear no part and incur no risk. Then the discovery of the so-called plot is so pat to the times and so convenient for the necessities of the moment that a further element of doubt is introduced. The voting on the plebiscite takes place on May 8; and just one week previous this plot is discovered—just in time, that is to say, for reports of the intended atrocity to be spread through every corner of France and even in Algeria; to create a panic of fear as to the designs of the "bloodthirsty Republicans;" to influence votes on the plebiscite; and to bear out in the minds of ignorant peasants and timid bourgeoisie M. Ollivier's allegation that to vote "No" means revolution, robbery, and murder, while to vote "Yes" means peace, order, liberty, and prosperity. In short, this alleged plot being of the kind from which the plotters could gain nothing, whereas the plotted against must gain a great deal, we gravely doubt its reality; and are decidedly inclined to say regarding it, "In the name of the Prophet—Figs!" When it has served its purpose it may perchance go to the limbo of several like discoveries, and be little more heard of; in which case the position of the Ollivier Ministry will be far from enviable, and the right to boast that "we are honest men" theirs no longer. But if the plot be real, and proofs thereof be forthcoming, they should be produced immediately—even before the plebiscite is voted. Whether they are so produced or not, this plot, real or feigned, suggests anything but cheering reflections. People will be apt to think, that if Frenchmen can only plot assassinations, they are unworthy of freedom; and if the Emperor can only rule through the influence of panic fear, he is unworthy of his position. Is this all we are to hope from the vaunted constitutional reforms about which we have heard so much of late? Are despotism and disorder the only alternatives France has to choose between? We must wait to see; but we hope for better things, and therefore, and because we desiderate proofs, we take the liberty of doubting the reality of this latest grand discovery of M. Pietri's myrmidons. Of course, the proofs must be real; and must, moreover, be subjected to thorough and free sifting. No mere official reports, confessions of supposed accomplices, or trials before a packed jury and a biased judge, will serve. A repetition of the recent exhibition at Tours, with the clientele of the court changed, would satisfy no one. Of that M. Ollivier may be assured.

DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS FOR CANADA.

THE Ganges, a remarkably fine screw-steamer of 1899 tons register, W. S. Mason, commander, left the Victoria Docks, on Wednesday morning, April 27, at eleven o'clock, having on board an unusually large party of emigrants connected with the East-End Emigration Club, a society acting in union with the committee of the British and Colonial Emigration Fund. Of the entire number of 761 souls which were on the lists as going by this ship, only four were waiting at the moment the vessel cast off from the quay. Among the parties present to witness the departure of the emigrants were Lord and Lady Alfred Churchill, Sir T. Fowell Buxton; Andrew Johnston, Esq., M.P.; the Rev. J. F. and Mrs. Kitto, the Rev. W. J. Caparn, Mr. E. H. Currie, &c. The Rev. J. Cohen, Rector of Whitechapel, was also on board, proceeding in the vessel to Canada as Chaplain, in company with Mrs. Cohen. Captain Forster, R.N., the chief emigration inspector for the port of London, was present in discharge of his official duties, and no effort seemed to be wanting to secure the comfort of the numerous passengers. Close at hand the screw-steamer Tweed, belonging to Messrs. Temperley's line of packets, displayed her bunting in gay profusion, being herself destined to start for Canada next morning with another large party of emigrants, under the auspices of the same societies.

In addition to the visitors on board the Ganges, many of whom accompanied the vessel as far down the river as Gravesend, a number of working people lined the adjacent quays, manifesting a lively interest in the proceedings, and cheering loudly as the Ganges proceeded out of dock. The emigrants were somewhat superior to the usual class, a circumstance partly attributable to the fact that they themselves contributed to the cost of their passage at the rate of £3 per statute adult. To raise this amount of money the emigrants have, in many cases, endured extraordinary hardships. A great anxiety to emigrate displays itself among the working classes in the eastern districts of the metropolis, and the spirit is found to be extending itself throughout the country. The committee of the British and Colonial Emigration Fund expect to send out as many as 4000 emigrants by the end of this month, the first instalment being those who left in the Medway on the 14th ult.

So great is the rush now to emigrate that some difficulty is experienced in finding ships to take the people. Hence the British and Colonial Committee are draughting off small parties by railway to Liverpool. Thus about forty statute adults were sent down to Liverpool by train last week, in company with others belonging to the Rev. A. S. Herring's Clerkenwell Society, to take their passage in the Nestorian, one of Messrs. Allan's line of packets. This week about one hundred will be sent down to Liverpool to go on board the Scandinavian, a fine new steam-ship, which will then make her first voyage. So great is the earnestness of the people in their desire to emigrate, that they sacrifice every comfort in order to raise the necessary subscriptions for the

club. To achieve this purpose they live at starvation point, and towards the close of their time the intending emigrants are often found in rooms almost bare of furniture. A very respectable woman, by no means in good health, who went on board the Ganges with her husband was thus found lying on the bare boards of her room, with no article of furniture but an old chair. The parties desirous of emigrating pay their subscriptions weekly to a local club, and this system is being developed very rapidly. The British and Colonial Committee are receiving applications from all parts of the country, and are extending their aid to numerous provincial districts, even reaching as far as the Hebrides and Shetland. Of course, the subscriptions of the emigrants fell considerably short of the entire expense of the passage, and the difference has to be made up by the contributions of the benevolent; though, in respect of the money furnished from the British and Colonial fund, it is now asked that the emigrants will ultimately repay the sum advanced, three years being allowed for this purpose. It is gratifying to learn that this arrangement is in accordance with the expressed desire of many of the emigrants themselves.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A fresh conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Napoleon is reported from Paris. According to a special edition of the *Official Journal*, published last Saturday evening, a man named Baurie, or Beaury, who had recently arrived from London, was arrested on the preceding evening, and a loaded revolver was found upon him, together with a letter written by "an individual greatly compromised in the February plot." This letter and the avowals of the prisoner are said to leave no doubt that he intended to assassinate the Emperor. Other arrests have taken place at Belleville, where some bombs and powder have been discovered. In the *Figaro* it is stated that the letter found on Beaury was from M. Gustave Flourens, the hero of the February disturbances, and that Beaury himself is a deserter from the army. Many other arrests are reported to have been made, and M. Cernuschi, an Italian banker, who recently subscribed 100,000fr. to the anti-plebiscitary fund has been expelled from France. M. Cernuschi has just given another sum of 100,000fr. which is to be applied to the same purpose. The money was sent from Switzerland, where M. Cernuschi proceeded upon being compelled to quit French territory. A protest against his expulsion, which has been issued by the Committee of the Left, declares that the Government is so accustomed to consider itself the nation that it forgets foreigners are not its guests but those of France. M. Cernuschi, it adds, did not violate the laws of the country which had given him an asylum; by assisting it to recover its liberty he nobly recognised its hospitality. This protest is signed by all the leading members of the Opposition. The amnesty which was expected after the plebiscite will not now be granted.

The principal conspirator is described as a deserter from the 7th Regiment of the Line, who had borne a bad character, and twice been convicted for swindling. A letter is reported to have been found upon him, addressed to M. Gustave Flourens, stating that the assassination of the Emperor was to take place "between two and four" in the afternoon of Friday week. The Opposition papers declare that Beaury is a spy, that he has imposed upon M. Flourens, and that the alleged conspiracy has been arranged by the police in order to increase the majority when the plebiscite is voted. The *Gaulois* calculates that it will swell the number of votes by half a million. The *Siècle* reminds its readers that a somewhat similar discovery was made in 1852, and that it at once had the effect of augmenting the popularity of the President, who shortly afterwards was nominated Emperor by eight millions of votes. Engravings of the bombs said to have been discovered appear in the *Gaulois* and *Figaro*. They are represented as very formidable, and were to be thrown from a window.

Considerable agitation prevails at Beziers, and troops had been sent for as a precautionary measure. At Marseilles several houses have been searched, and compromising papers discovered. According to the *Constitutionnel*, several meetings against the plebiscite held in the departments had been stopped by the people shouting for the Emperor and against the republic. Addresses and letters are arriving at the Tuileries from all parts of France congratulating the Emperor on the discovery of the conspiracy against his Majesty's life.

In answer to many applications, M. Guizot has published his views on the plebiscite in the *Débats*. He announces that he intends to vote in favour of it, but he says he deeply regrets that the liberal reforms proposed by the Emperor were not previously discussed by the Legislative Body and Senate. He is also sorry that the plebiscite, instead of simply asking the country to sanction these reforms, asks it as well to express satisfaction with the entire Constitution. M. Guizot nevertheless holds that the reforms accomplished are so favourable to the regular progress of general liberty and the good administration of public affairs that his objections are outweighed, and he is convinced that the plebiscite can and ought to be voted with thankfulness and hope.

An address to the army on the subject of the plebiscite has been issued by the Committee of the Left. It strongly urges the troops, if they wish to live as free men in a free country, to vote "No" and says that France counts upon the army, and the army may count upon France. M. Ollivier, on his side, has issued another address to his constituents in favour of the plebiscite.

General de Martimprey has been appointed Governor of the Hôtel des Invalides.

ITALY.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Parliament Signor Visconti-Venosta, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, laid upon the table the papers in his possession respecting the murder of Count de Boyl by the Greek brigands. Every attempt had been made by the Italian Government to obtain the release of the Count.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, after a short discussion between Signor Sella and the reporter of the committee upon the figures of the deficit, the several chapters of the Budget were approved. The total amount of the Budget is 950,500,000 lire.

ROME.

The General Congregation of the Council, on Wednesday, after voting amendments, proceeded to the general vote on "Schema de parvo Catechismo." One tenth of the Bishops replied by a *non placet*. These votes were given by German and Hungarian Bishops, who wish to preserve the catechism in its present state.

PORTUGAL.

Popular tumults have occurred at Castro Dairio. Several persons were killed and wounded. The monument to King Pedro IV. was inaugurated on the 29th ult. An immense crowd assembled, but no disturbance occurred.

AUSTRIA.

Confidential negotiations have been opened between the Government and the leaders of the Czech party. Count Potocki informed them at the outset that the Ministry entertained most conciliatory views, and were earnestly bent upon arriving at an understanding upon the basis of the Constitution. The Czech leaders are desirous of continuing the negotiations with persons in the confidence of the Government.

POLAND.

The Poles do not seem much disposed to take advantage of the "permission" so graciously accorded them by an imperial ukase the other day, to use the Russian language at Divine service in their churches. It appears that the peasantry, notwithstanding

the persuasions and threats of the officials, persist in refusing to say their prayers out of Russian prayer-books; and the Polish priests are naturally among the warmest opponents of the measure. One of them, Piotrovicz, Dean of the diocese of Vienna, was ordered to read the ukase to his congregation after the sermon on Lady Day. He did so, but burnt the document at the altar immediately afterwards. This incident produced tremendous enthusiasm among the Poles who were present, and Piotrovicz then addressed to his hearers an eloquent denunciation of the persecution suffered by the Polish Church at the hands of the Russian Government. The usual result followed. Piotrovicz was arrested by the police as he was descending from the pulpit, and transported on the following day to the government of Archangel without trial.

DENMARK.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Danish Parliament the President of the Council announced that the Government had received advices from Washington stating that the Danish representative there informed the Secretary of State, on April 12, that he was ready to proceed to the ratification of the treaty for the sale of the West India islands to the United States. On April 16 he received a reply from Mr. Secretary Fish to the effect that he could do nothing in the matter, as the Senate had abstained from making any declaration on the subject. The President of the Council added that the whole of the papers would shortly be laid before the House and that the Government would take measures to meet the wants of Denmark's West Indian possessions.

THE UNITED STATES.

In the House of Representatives, on Monday, Mr. Calkins (Republican), of New York, brought forward a resolution declaring it to be the sentiment of the American people that immediate reparation should be made by Great Britain for the destruction of vessels belonging to citizens of the United States by the Alabama and other steamers of a like character, and requesting the President to press the Alabama claims to an immediate settlement, that the citizens may be promptly remunerated for their losses and the nation's honour maintained. The previous question was moved, but the House refused it by 40 to 75 votes. On the motion of General Banks, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The House has passed a resolution granting a pension of 3000 dols. per annum to Mrs. Lincoln.

The disaster at Richmond has caused the death of 59 persons, and 125 have been injured.

CANADA.

The militia, who were called out to guard against the expected Fenian raid, have generally been recalled from the frontier. The troops destined for the Red River are commencing to rendezvous at Toronto. The expedition is to consist of one fourth regular troops and three fourths Canadian volunteers. A quarter of the expenses will be paid by England.

A deputation from British Columbia to arrange terms for joining the Canadian Confederation is now on its way to the capital of the dominion.

A bill for the government of Prince Rupert's Land has been introduced into Parliament, which provides that the Legislature of that province shall consist of two Chambers, the first to be nominated, and the second to be elected by household suffrage, on the basis of one year's residence. The bill further provides that Prince Rupert's Land shall be represented in the Dominion Parliament by two senators and four representatives. An annual subsidy is to be paid by Canada, amounting to 80c. per head of the population, with an additional sum of 30,000 dols. 1,200,000 acres will be reserved for the extinction of Indian titles. The province is to have power to amend municipal constitutions, except as to execution. The province is to comprise the territory from 96 deg. to 98 deg. 15 min. W. long., and from 49 deg. to 50 deg. 30 min. N. lat. The name of the province is to be Manetoda. All other portions of the north-west territory are to be governed by Canada.

INDIA.

The *Friend of India* reports a serious rising at Ulwar, in Rajpootana, where 2000 Thakoors and their followers have rebelled against their chief.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—A meeting of clergy and churchwardens, to promote the objects of the Bishop of London's Fund, was held, on Monday, in the theatre of King's College, Strand. The Bishop of London presided, and was supported by the leading clergy of the metropolis. The Bishop said the fund had accomplished half its history; and although, looking to the sum which it was originally proposed to raise, the results of their operations might be considered disappointing, still they had reason to be thankful. They had been enabled to raise £400,000, and sixty new parishes had been formed, and forty more districts were in progress.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.—The bill brought in by Mr. Dodson, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Forster provides that no person shall be required, upon taking or to enable him to take any degree (except in divinity) within the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham, or upon exercising or to enable him to exercise any of the rights and privileges of graduates in those Universities or in any college connected with them, or upon taking or holding or to enable him to take or hold any office in any of the said Universities or any such college, or upon teaching or to enable him to teach within any of the said Universities or any such college, or upon opening or to enable him to open a private hall or hostel for the reception of students, to subscribe any article or formula of faith, or to make any declaration or take any oath respecting his religious belief or profession, or to conform to any religious observance, or to attend or abstain from attending any form of public worship, or to be or abstain from being a member of any particular Church, sect, or denomination; nor shall any person be compelled, in any of the said Universities or of any such college as aforesaid, to attend the public worship of any Church, sect, or denomination to which he does not belong. It is provided, first, that nothing in this section shall render a layman eligible to any office or capable of exercising any right or privilege in any of the said Universities or colleges, which office, right, or privilege, under the authority of any Act of Parliament or any statute or ordinance of such University or college in force at the time of the passing of this Act, is restricted to persons in holy orders, or shall remove any obligation to enter into holy orders which is by such authority attached to any such office. 2. Nothing in this section shall open any office (not being an office mentioned in this section) to any person who is not a member of the Church of England where such office is at the passing of this Act confined to members of the said Church by reason of any such degree as aforesaid being a qualification for holding that office. 3. Nothing in this Act shall apply to the headship of any college.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION.—On Tuesday night a special meeting of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association was held at the office, High Holborn.—Mr. Robert Applegarth in the chair—in reference to the alleged complicity of the association in the plot to assassinate the Emperor of the French. Dr. Maix introduced the subject by referring to the attacks made upon the association by the French Government papers, and the arrest of a large number of the members of the French sections of the association. He repudiated any connection of the association with the alleged plot. After some discussion, the following declaration was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be signed by the council and sent to the French and other Continental journals for publication:—"On the occasion of the last pretended plot the French Government has not only arrested several members of our Paris and Lyons sections, but has insinuated in its organs that the International Working Men's Association is an accomplice in that pretended plot. According to the tenor of our rules, it is certainly the special mission of all our branches in England, on the Continent, and in the United States to act not only in centres for the organisation of the working class, but also to aid, in their different countries, all political movements tending to the accomplishment of our ultimate end—the economical emancipation of the working class. At the same time, these rules bind all our sections to act openly. If our rules were not positive on that point the very nature of an association which identifies itself with the working classes would exclude from it every form of a secret society. If the working classes, who form the great bulk of all nations, who produce all their wealth, and in the name of whom the usurping classes always pretend to rule, conspire, they conspire publicly, as the sun conspires against darkness, in the full consciousness that without their pale there exists no legitimate power. If the other incidents of the plot denounced by the French Government are as false and unfounded as its insinuations against the International Working Men's Association, this last plot will worthily range with its two predecessors of grotesque memory. The noisy and violent measures against our French sections are exclusively intended to serve one singular purpose—the manipulation of the plebiscite."

THE ALLEGED FRENCH PLOT.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* gives the following as authentic information on the subject of the alleged plot against the life of the Emperor, and its statement is as yet the only proofs furnished by Government:—

It is known that Beauray was the principal instrument chosen by the most excited members of the Republican party to bring to an issue the abominable design they had formed. On the day of his arrest—which was effected as he was coming home to his lodgings at a hotel in the Rue des Moulins, after spending the night with a girl named Aimée. Beauray was the bearer of arms and letters which left no doubt as to the nature and object of his correspondence and intercourse with Gustave Flourens, at present in London, and with various members of the International Working Men's Association.

When Beauray found that the letter of Gustave Flourens had been seized by the police, he fell into a state of great prostration, got very nervous, and shed tears. He was then gradually brought to confess. The letter of Flourens contains this passage:—"The man with the patent will soon leave for the country. . . . Therefore no time should be lost. When a man has made a promise, he is bound to keep it and to succeed." In the draught of a letter written by Beauray, and found on his person, the following lines challenged attention:—"The surgical amputation will be effected this day." Other documents seemed to establish the complicity of several persons not belonging to the International Association. Thus M. Protot, an advocate who had undertaken the defence of Megy, corresponded with Gustave Flourens, and acted as an intermediary between this latter, his clients, and other participants in the plot. A warrant was issued against M. Protot, and yesterday morning (i.e., Sunday) M. Clement, commissary of police, and two policemen, proceeded to his residence. They found him at home; he answered the door himself, and showed no intention to offer any opposition to the execution of the warrant. The commissary of police proceeded to search the premises; but, as he was about to open a portico-study as barrister's use, Protot took it up, precipitately left the room, closing the door behind him, and ran down stairs. M. Clement rushed after him, and, to get down faster, slid down the balusters. He reached the courtyard nearly as soon as Protot; but as he was alone with him he pulled a revolver out of his pocket and fired a shot in the air to hasten the arrival of the officers. But the officers were not the first to make their appearance; individuals in blouses, who, excited by M. Protot's shouts, rushed on the commissary of police; but M. Clement was soon released, and was able to take his prisoner to the prefecture, whence he was removed to Mazas, where Beauray had been already incarcerated.

Ronsel, the cabinet-maker, at whose lodgings the bombs were seized, lived at Rue des Rosiers, a court near Pere la Chaise. On April 14, under the name of Renard, he called on M. Lepet, an ironfounder in the Rue St. Maur, to order the bombs, which he described as intended for axes for velocipedes. Ronsel is married, and the father of two young children. He had long since been pointed out to the police as attending public meetings where he was notorious for the violence of his speeches. In October last, at one of these meetings, which the commissary of police had ordered to dissolve, he took up a bench to strike a policeman who was trying to turn him out. On the following day a Socialist paper complained of "Citizen Ronsel" having been ill-treated by the police. He had as yet continued to escape arrest. In addition to the bombs and compromising papers, a pot full of picaresque potash was discovered at his lodgings.

Two fresh warrants of arrest were issued yesterday morning by the Juge d'Instruction against two wine-shop-keepers named Tavernier and Bichet. They were arrested in the course of the day. Here are the names of the persons at present in custody:—MM. Leveille, Greffier, Prevot, and Protot; also the following members of the International Association—Heliogon, Johannard, Leconte, Flabault, Duguanque, Murat, Callot, Germain, Case, Arris, Pindy, Rocher, Theisz, and Malon. Tavernier, who was arrested yesterday, is one of the most active propagators of the Free-thinkers' Association, whose object is to attend and encourage "civil burials"—i.e., without prayers or clergy.

In the course of the searches effected at the houses of the various persons arrested documents are said to have been seized showing in the most unmistakable manner the reorganisation of the International Association on bases threatening social order.

These documents set forth that a central committee of action has been formed in Paris, in active correspondence with the general board of that association in London, and the central board in Belgium. The members of the Parisian section of these two boards appear to have taken a leading part in recent events, and particularly in the various strikes which have taken place in manufacturing towns since 1868. Traces of their goings on are discovered in the strike connected with the building trades at Geneva in 1869; in that of the bronze workers at Paris; in those which broke out among the miners at Seraing and Borinage in Belgium; in the strikes of the tailors and tanners in Paris; in the strikes at Creuzot, Aubin, Fourchambault, &c. The organisation of this society, the members of which in Europe and America amount to several millions (*se comptent par millions*), constitute a formidable power, the leaders of which are said to have conceived the idea of bringing about a Socialist and Republican Revolution. To prove the participation of the branches of the International Association in the political questions recently trumped up for the purpose of disturbing order and security during the present year it is sufficient to read the many manifestoes published by the *Marseillaise*. These manifestoes leave no doubt as to the tendencies of the International Association."

The *Journal Officiel* of Wednesday evening contains the following article:—

The system of the revolutionary party is known. It consists in attacking every act of the Government. If that party attempts a disturbance, it is the police that has provoked it. If it organises a conspiracy, it is the Government that has invented it. A man has been arrested at the moment he was seeking an opportunity to assassinate the Emperor; he avows his criminal intention. Newspapers of a certain character persist, none the less, in denying the fact of the attempt. Bombs are found. It is the police which has fabricated them. But the person who cast them comes forward and gives precise information respecting them. Will that convince the incredulous? No; because they are wilfully incredulous. It is the duty of the Government to put the public on its guard against electioneering manoeuvres. A legal investigation is being actively carried on; and, as this new attempt is but a sequel to the conspiracy of February last, the preliminary inquiry into which has been completed, the public mind will speedily be furnished with all the materials for arriving at a sound conclusion.

The *Official Journal* of Thursday morning publishes a report of M. Ollivier, dated the 4th inst., which says:—

At the time when the plebiscite was decreed the investigation of the plot of February had been closed. We had delayed this in order that the involuntary coincidence should not have the appearance of an electoral intrigue, but the Revolutionists have not been stopped in their career by the legal armistice which we granted. They thought that destroying the Sovereign through a crime would be tantamount to certain destruction of the State, and therefore they resolved before the 8th of this month to execute their designs, which had been long prepared. Under these circumstances it is our duty to have recourse at once to public justice.

A decree annexed to the report convokes the Chamber for Public Prosecution in the High Court, for the purpose of stating the facts connected with the plot.

A report of M. Grandperret is also published, filling five and a half columns of the *Official Journal*, in which the facts which occurred in the secret meetings held at the lodgings of Dupont, Fontaine, Guerin, Sappia, and others are narrated. Several of the conspirators have confessed; and from the confession of Guerin it transpires that the plan for the intended outbreak and the assassination of the Emperor, by means of nitro-glycerine, was proposed as far back as July, 1869, by Dupont. The rising had already been prepared for Oct. 26 last, but the attempt was then abandoned. At subsequent meetings, however, the preparations for the insurrection and the plot against the life of the Emperor had been continued. A letter of Mazzini addressed to Sappia, which has been seized, informs the latter that he cannot come to the banquet at St. Maude, and adds, "Duties similar to those for which you are making your preparations retain me where I am at present." A letter of Vaclin, one of the heads of the International Association, has been found at Marseilles, at the house of Bastelica referring to political projects and to relations with Rochefort. It says, "I am going to secure the co-operation of the other centres at Lyons, Rouen, Roubaix, &c." After an account of the disturbances of February last, M. Grandperret's report refers to the confession of Beauray, recently arrested, who declares that Flourens had encouraged him in the plan to assassinate the Emperor. M. Grandperret also states that Beauray received three letters from Flourens, two of which he burned; the third has been found by the police. This letter, signed Gustave, is dated April 20, and the writer says:—"There is not a moment to be lost. The man with the patent might leave for the country, and then everything would be delayed. Only go out at night, and then always in a cab. Do not fail, I shall be very shortly in Paris to support you. All depends upon you. Once more I must repeat what I have already said—either you ought not to have had anything to do with it, or you must be successful." Experts in hand-

writing declare the letter is the same as that from Flourens, as confessed by Beauray. The letter of Beauray, of April 24, signed "Camille," declares that he will "perform the amputation at any price." He asks of Ballot another remittance of 1400f. Another letter of Flourens, dated April 19, which was seized on Ballot, and the authenticity of which is acknowledged both by the mother and brother of Flourens, advises Ballot not to advance any more money, because "that which I propose doing is in a fair way to be realised." Simultaneously Flourens organised, with Sauret, Greffier, and others, measures to bring about an insurrection. M. Grandperret, in conclusion, gives an account of the seizure of the bombs, and states that of the twenty-one bombs, seventeen only came from the iron-founder Repet. Another foundry therefore still exists not yet discovered. Ballot, who was recently arrested, declares that he had remitted for Flourens 1100f. to Sauret, 550f. to Beauray, and 1400f. to Greffier.

MEETINGS OF PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETIES.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—The eighteenth annual meeting of the governors of this hospital was held, on Wednesday, at Great Ormond-street, in the board-room of the institution. The chair was taken by the Hon. A. Kinaird, M.P. The report stated that, during the past year, 709 children had been under treatment as in-patients, and 112 had been admitted to the convalescent branch at Highgate; also, that upwards of 15,000 out-patients had been attended at Great Ormond-street. The completion of the wards for surgical and chronic cases at Cromwell House, Highgate, was expected early in the present month. The purchase of the freehold of the premises in Great Ormond-street had been completed, and plans for the entire rebuilding of the hospital were under consideration. A special appeal to the public on behalf of the building fund is to be made on May 25, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has signified his intention to preside on the occasion. The income from all sources during the year had been £9864, being an increase of £1500 as compared with the previous year, this increase arising from an anonymous donation of £1000 by "C. D. W." The total ordinary expenditure on account of the hospital and convalescent branch was £5625, and the extraordinary expenditure on account of the repairs and furnishing of Cromwell House about £2521. The funded property of the charity amounts to about £15,000, a considerable portion of which is available for the purpose of rebuilding the hospital. It was stated that the new hospital is intended to receive 200 patients, and will be provided with all modern improvements in ventilation and appliances for the care and comfort of the patients and their restoration to health. The report was unanimously adopted by the meeting. The usual election of officers for the ensuing year having been held, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.—The anniversary dinner of this institution was held, on Wednesday, at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P. The dinner was well attended by members of the profession. At the present time the schools contain 200 resident pupils, the sons of medical men, of whom fifty are on the foundation; and there are twenty-four resident pensioners. The chairman, in giving the toast of the evening—"Success to the Institution"—said that the object of this charity was not to afford assistance to those who were able to support themselves, and whose duty it was to educate their children, but to those who, after doing all they could to provide for a rainy day, were obliged to succumb to events which they had no power to avert. There was no class of men who were more subject to unforeseen calamities than members of the medical profession. Their daily life naturally exposed them to risks which could be avoided by others, their education was expensive, and at their entrance on life they were subjected to disadvantages from which men following other professions were free, because they found that it was necessary to marry much earlier than others in order that they might be in a position to attend upon families who objected as a rule to employ doctors who were unmarried. They were thus saddled with the expense of a family at a much earlier period of life than other men, and there was very often a constant struggle. On their own merits they were entitled to the sympathy of all other classes, for their whole lives were passed in assuaging human suffering and ministering to the sick and dying. They were liable at any moment to be cut off in the pestilence which walketh in darkness, and nothing was more distressing than to find that a man whose whole energies had been devoted to the alleviation of the sufferings of others had himself fallen a victim to some contagious disease caught in the execution of one of the most sacred duties of humanity. Surely if the existence of any charitable society could be justified, it was such a one as this. As a general rule, the medical profession was not one that was highly paid, and therefore any society which had for its object the education of their sons and the granting of pensions to decayed members was most deserving of public support. From a personal inspection of the schools, he was happy to say they appeared to be admirably conducted, and the whole object of the society met with his cordial approval. The secretary then read a list of subscriptions and donations, which amounted to between £600 and £700.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.—On Wednesday the thirty-second annual meeting of the subscribers to the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read and for training them in industrial occupations was held in the Hanover-square Rooms—the Earl of Lichfield in the chair. Mr. Sander submitted the annual state of accounts to Dec. 31, 1869, from which it appeared that the gross receipts for the year were £1870 16s. 10d., and the expenditure for the same period was £1841 10s. 8d. The committee further reported that the pupils were progressing satisfactorily in the different branches of instruction. The chairman made an earnest appeal on behalf of the institution, which, he said, was deserving of public support, and more especially when it sought to relieve those who were totally unable without some training to provide for their daily wants. The claims of the blind had been too long neglected and forgotten, and he was glad to see that there was a movement now in progress throughout the country for providing the want so long felt. It had been estimated that in the United Kingdom there were 30,000 blind men and women, and of these about 3000 were under the age of twenty. From a calculation made, there was educational accommodation in the country for only 900 of these, and he considered that was a sufficient proof of the necessity of their making an attempt to supply the deficiency. An effort was now being made to establish an institution for the education of the higher class of blind; but it was equally important that they should have establishments at which the poor blind might be educated and taught the different branches of industry. That could only be accomplished by liberal support, as each pupil cost about £40 a year for support and education. The Rev. Mr. Kemp moved, and the Rev. D. Kennard seconded, the adoption of the report, which was carried. A committee of management was then appointed for the ensuing year, and the proceedings closed with the customary vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was held at Exeter Hall on Monday—Mr. W. S. Allen, M.P., in the chair. According to the report, the income during the year had amounted to £145,750. The document dwelt at length upon the work of the missions, which had been, for the most part, of a satisfactory and encouraging character. In the evening the annual meeting of the National Temperance League was held in the same building. The income last year was £4154.

A DEPUTATION waited on Mr. Shaw Lefevre, on Wednesday, to impress on the Government the necessity of some provision, by workmen's trains, for the conveyance of men and women from the suburbs to their places of work. It was truly stated that railways and local improvements had destroyed thousands of houses, mostly those of the working classes, who had thereby been compelled to seek dwellings in the suburban districts. Mr. Lefevre promised attention to the subject.

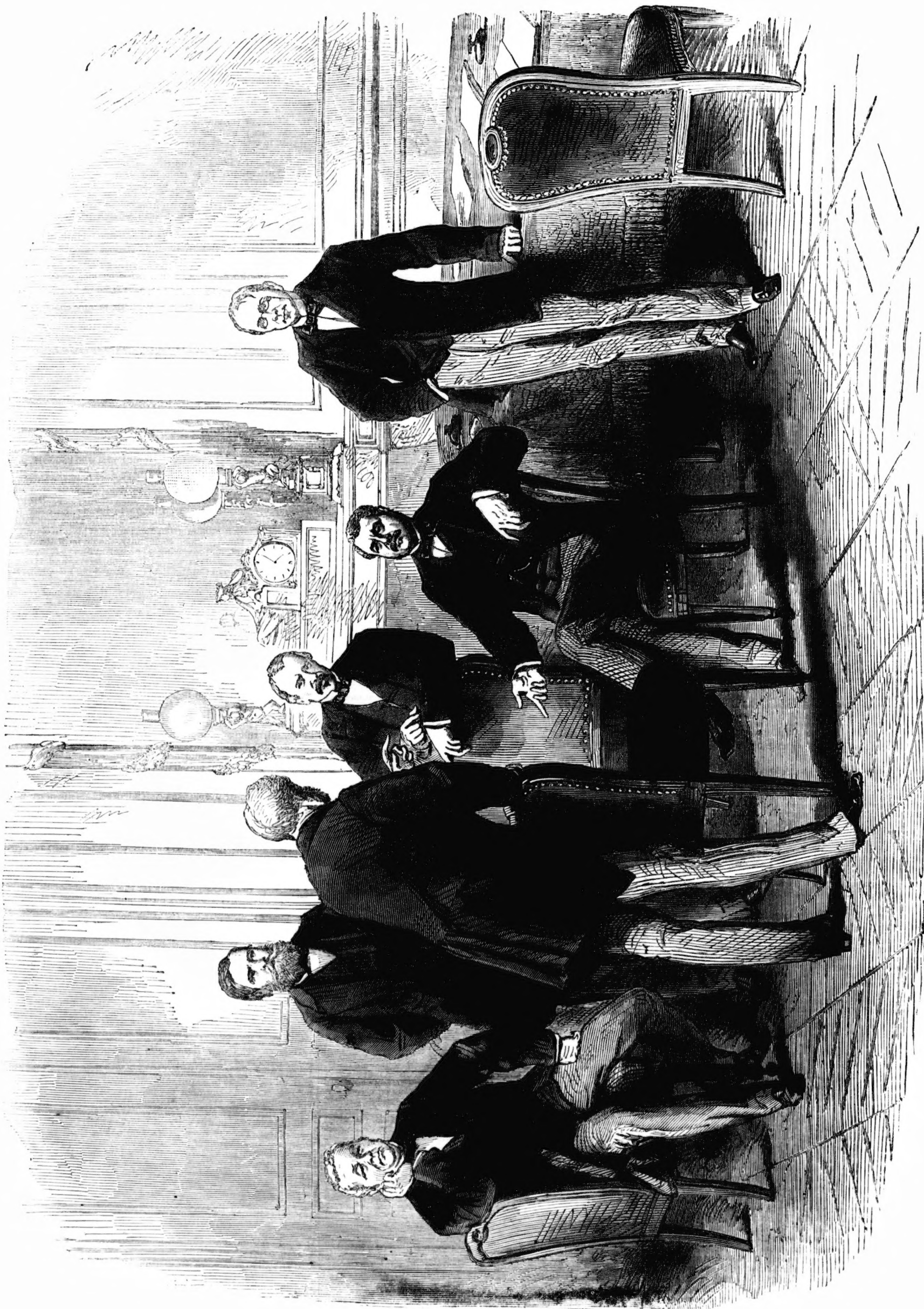
CRYSTAL PALACE.—The new season will commence to-day (Saturday) with a grand musical festival under the management of the Sacred Harmonic Society. The orchestra, which will include the entire bands and chorus of the Sacred Harmonic Society and the Crystal Palace Company, and the two thousand members of the Handel Festival Choir, as well as other amateurs and professors of eminence, will number upwards of three thousand performers. Madame Sinico, Madame Monbelli, Madame Trebelli-Bottini, Signor Gassier, Signor Bettini, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Santley are the principal vocalists. The festival will be conducted by Sir Michael Costa. The attractions announced this summer are more varied and numerous than perhaps in any former season. The principal features will be a series of eight grand summer concerts, at which all the artists engaged at the Royal Italian Opera, Drury-lane (as well as other engagements still pending), will assist. The grand flower shows will be held on Saturdays, May 21, and June 11, to both of which will be added new features in the way of classes specially intended to encourage the skill of amateurs in the culture and arrangement of flowers. The annual rose show will be held on Saturday, June 25. The great displays of fireworks, with their always-attendant illumination of fountains, will be recommenced at the beginning of June, when several novelties, which have been in preparation during the recess, will be introduced by Mr. C. T. Brock, the company's pyrotechnist. Poultry, cage-birds, and pigeon shows will also be held later in the season. The Odd Fellows, Foresters, Temperance, and other great benefit societies' gatherings will also be held as usual. The celebrated Saturday concerts will be resumed in October, under the direction of Mr. Manns. The operatic and dramatic performances will be shortly resumed, when several new works will be played. Other new features in the Crystal Palace programme remain to be mentioned—a drill review of the boys in schools on the drill system, in the presence of Prince and Princess Teck, on June 21; a great national show of dogs on June 21, 22, 23, and 24, when the prize-list will amount to £1000; and an exhibition of church decorations and furniture.

THE POPE AND THE ARMENIAN CHURCH.

The differences between the Pope and the United Armenian Church, which are assuming proportions of considerable magnitude, really involve points of very cardinal import. The quarrel which has lately burst out has been brewing for years, and the present explosion is but the result of a collision deliberately brought about by the course which the Court of Rome has, with a fixed purpose, chosen to pursue in one particular direction against precedent and immemorial right. The Armenian Church is one that has so slight a hold on the Western mind that the preliminary incidents of this controversy were not likely to attract the attention they deserved. This circumstance facilitated the early action of the Court of Rome, which was thus enabled to make good unperceived encroachments against a comparatively obscure communion which it could not have been allowed to establish against Churches occupying a more conspicuous position. But now things, much to the disgust of those who sit in Rome, have unexpectedly taken a violent turn; and under favour of the interests generally awakened in ecclesiastical matters, the hitherto neglected Armenians have found the opportunity for at least making a noise about their grievances. The case in question is, indeed, well deserving attention. It is eminently characteristic of the principles resolutely promoted by the Court of Rome and of the peculiar means of action set at work for the accomplishment of its purposes. In this diminutive Armenian quarrel we have as in a microcosm the whole gist of Roman Church policy towards all Oriental Churches.

The Catholic Armenians, like all Churches presided over by Patriarchs, have from time immemorial possessed the right to choose their own Bishops by popular election—the Bishops being in their turns invested with the prerogative to select the spiritual Primate. There was besides a civil Patriarch, also nominated by the laity, and confirmed by the Porte, who, aided by a council of notables, acted as the civil representative of the Armenians. He held a court of justice in the first instance, and his chancery was the Record Office of the civil acts of the Armenian body. At the same time it must be mentioned that, though the Archbishop of Constantinople was styled Primate, the title, strictly speaking, was one rather of courtesy, inasmuch as the Primacy by historical and ecclesiastical title was really lodged with the Armenian Patriarch of Cilicia. In 1847 the Constantinople Primacy fell vacant; and the Pope then bestirred himself to secure the nomination, as successor to the deceased prelate, of one who had been a pupil in the seminaries of Rome, and was a favourite there with many high ecclesiastics. The individual thus put forward by the Court of Rome was Monsignor Hassoon. This interference of Rome was at first decidedly resented by the Armenians. But a variety of circumstances combined to favour the encroachment. At that time there was everywhere a current of enthusiasm about the reforming and liberal Pius IX. Of all Popes who had ever been in the world he was deemed the least likely to be animated with a usurping disposition. Monsignor Hassoon himself, who knows how to speak plausibly, proceeded to Constantinople, and contrived to talk over some among his leading countrymen. He gave the assurance that there was no desire to invade the older privileges of the Church; that, on the contrary, the Pope entertained the liveliest desire for their fortification; and that his own elevation, if agreed to by the Armenian community, should be distinctly declared exceptional, and involving no precedent for the future. On this basis, the Armenians waived their objection, and Hassoon became Archbishop of Constantinople. It was not long, however, before he showed that the dignity did not fill up the measure of his ambition. By courtly demagoguery and intrigue he contrived to obtain his nomination as Civil Patriarch; but this promotion caused so great an agitation that the Porte, after a while, saw itself driven to cancel the appointment. Hassoon, however, did not relax in his schemes. His plan now was to contrive, by aid of Roman influence, to suppress the distinctions between the Constantinople Primacy and the ancient Cilician Patriarchate by getting himself invested with both. When holding in his hands the concentrated ecclesiastical authority of his Church he reckoned on easily securing the powers resident in the Civil Patriarchate, a dignity vacated by death, which he laboured successfully to keep vacant in anticipation of the demise before long of the aged occupant of the see of Cilicia. With these three dignities combined in his person, Hassoon would be virtually the irresponsible and autocratic Proconsul, ruling without appeal over his co-religionists—the precise kind of delegate which it is the object of the Court of Rome that Bishops should become to an absolute and infallible Pope. The event thus speculated on came about, and the Bishops of the Armenian Church assembled at Bezmar to choose a new Patriarch. They were surprised to see arrive Monsignor Valerga, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem—an Italian ecclesiastic of considerable determination and vigour, who recently was called in by Pius IX. to be his assistant in coercing the Patriarch of Babylon. Monsignor Valerga announced that he came by the Pope's orders to preside; and he intimated at the same time that the Pope reckoned on the assembled Bishops concurring in the elevation of Hassoon to the Patriarchate. Oriental Bishops are not as a rule of a stamp to defy openly the pressure of a vigorous and energetic character. It happened that at the time the great gathering for the centenary of St. Peter's was close at hand, to which all Bishops had been bidden, and these prelates were looking forward with divided feelings to what they might have to encounter there. Then it was that the resolute and uncompromising Valerga succeeded in inducing the assembly to confer the coveted title on Hassoon, who thereupon, along with many of his suffragans, proceeded to attend the centenary festival in Rome. There, however, a tremendous surprise was awaiting the ensnared Orientals. A request was unexpectedly addressed to them by Pius IX. to surrender the ancient right of electing their patriarchs. The Bishops, taken aback, were at a loss how to answer, when Hassoon declared that in the words of the Pope he recognised the inspiration of St. Peter, and that he joyfully conceded the Pope's demand in his own and his brethren's behalf. And thus, as in a spring, the ancient Eastern Church was caught and plucked.

Hassoon, who now returned to Constantinople with all the paraphernalia of Armenian Patriarch and Catholicos of Cilicia, was taken up by the French Embassy, which successfully backed him with all its weight to acquire the only shred of authority he had not yet wrested—the civil patriarchate. This French influence obtained for the grasping Hassoon through an act of violence. The Armenian community was deprived of its voice in the matter, and the nomination was extorted from the Porte by the dictation of France. For the moment Hassoon was installed in the plenitude of absolute authority, and appeared to have grasped unlimited power, though both the one and the other proved to be rather a name than a reality. No sooner was he enthroned than, with the true character of Oriental nature, the disaffection of his subjects, which shrank from open manifestation in the Pope's presence, displayed itself in a series of underground and stealthy, but withal unmistakable, demonstrations. Nor is it wonderful that these poor abandoned Armenians should have been backward in bearding heroically the combined array of Pope and France—the latter, moreover, controlling the Porte as a wirepuller. Gradually, however, the proceedings of Hassoon became so arbitrary that on occasion of his going to the Council the Armenian laity—having undoubtedly gained confidence from the knowledge that the Porte no longer looked with favour on the intruder—memorialised the Pope for the restitution of the right of episcopal election and for the removal of Hassoon. The latter, on proceeding to Rome, had left behind him a creature of his own, a certain Arkelian, as his Vice-General. To him Cardinal Barnabo dispatched from Rome a missive, in which there occurred the short sentence, "Order the malcontents to return immediately to obedience, or the Patriarch will exert his powers." The malcontents did nothing of the sort. They petitioned the Porte; and the Porte, thinking the case a reasonable one, granted to the seceders the Church of St. John as a special place of worship, inasmuch as Arkelian had seen fit to put them



M. CLEMENT DUVERNOIS.

M. EMILE DE GIRARDIN.
FRENCH POLITICIANS CONSIDERING THE FLEISCHET.

ALFRED DUTEL-DE-CLAVERGNE.

M. DE LA GUÉROUX.

M. D'AUDUBERT.

under the ban of excommunication. In Rome it is evident that the authorities looked on the movement as one that only required for its suppression a display of resolution. Accordingly the Pope was induced to dispatch Monsignor Pluym, not to consider grievances, but, according to Hassoon's words, "to restore order." On his arrival at Constantinople, Monsignor Pluym caused the Pope's brief to be promulgated in the Armenian Church. In it Pius IX. expresses cordial approval of everything done by Hassoon, and affirms that it is "not incumbent on him to maintain the privileges of the Eastern Churches, although recognised by his predecessors, inasmuch as in his capacity of Pontifex Maximus the right is vested in him to modify their privileges whenever it may seem to him needful." Accordingly, the Pope reprobates fiercely the evil-mindedness of those who have so far forgotten themselves as to raise their voices against that true man of God, the venerable

Hassoon, and formally pronounces against them the severest penalties of the Church if they have not expressed their contrition by a given date. The date is over, and we learn that the seceding Armenians have not made their submission, nor is there any likelihood of their doing so; for both the Porte and France now have decidedly resolved not to allow them to be coerced by an overbearing ecclesiastical despotism. In Constantinople alone there are said to be 4000 families and upwards of thirty priests who have adhered to the secession, and there appears no reason why this movement should not become general."—*Full Mail Gazette*.

"A LETTER-BOX IN A QUIET CORNER."

THE pillar letter-box, valuable as it may be as an institution, has superseded a great deal of the romance of the Post Office.

Who, for instance, could drop a love-letter into a gaping iron post at the edge of a great roaring main thoroughfare without feeling a pang? What if the tender missive should be lost amidst the hurry and confusion of the streets, or slip from the postman's bag as he shovels out that great shoal of epistles with his eye diverted by passing vehicles? What if some miscreant should throw a vesuvian or a lighted match into the pillar as he staggers half demented from the flaring ginshop over the way? What if in the inner net in which all the letters are caught as though the column were a kind of lobster-pot or eel-trap, some burley book packet should have made a breach, just large enough to let the truant billet doux escape, to lie afterward at the muddy foundation of the kerbstone, soaked with winter rains and the exudations of gas-pipes and drains, and never to reach its destination, but to be the undiscovered cause of doubts, surmises, misgivings, disputes,



"A LETTER-BOX IN A QUIET CORNER"

coldness, and all the sadness that comes of causeless separation and mistrust? No. Love-letters, at all events, should never be consigned to these iron utilitarian depositories. There are still remote or out-of-the-way receiving-houses where only a few gentle messages or family communications lie quietly awaiting the visit of the collector, where the bag is made up carefully, and securely tied at the mouth, lest some of the secrets contained in it should escape. Even should some letter by unaccustomed inadvertence be left behind, it will abide in peace at the bottom of the box amidst the scent of last year's valentines and the dropped sealing-wax "kisses" from boarding-school correspondence. The atmosphere surrounding it will be not altogether noxious; the very essence of plaintive pleadings, voluntary vows, and longing love will embalm it till it is rescued from the sarcophagus and sent out, still lively, by the next post. Why, one of the beauties of these boxes in out-of-the-way nooks and corners is that nobody feels any right to be annoyed by a little delay. The "dispatch" of such letters as properly belong to them is a solemn and deliberate ceremony, not lightly undertaken or irresponsibly discharged. When

we go there in quiet determination to post our message, we linger with it suspended in our fingers even in the very act of letting it slip; when once it has gone down to the bottom of the box, we feel that a part of ourselves has left us; and we draw a hard breath, as though a heart beat had gone out suddenly somewhere, and left us with a sense of loss which is yet a sense of gain. Whether it be really a love token, or a sad reminder to some friend who will feel a sudden stir and thrill as he sees the deep black border that encircles our brief and broken words, or a long-delayed but light and cheery remonstrance for old friendship's sake, or an urgent and hearty summons to revive dear memories and undying sympathies by a rare and cherished feast, or a calm periodical assurance of unaltered regard; or a swift, eccentric revolution of memories, half-smiles, half-tears, addressed to some parted friend once the loved companion of our youth—the letter becomes a living thing when once the words are penned; and as we send it forth we look for some equally living response in the living sympathy that it shall serve to represent.

THE CENTRAL PLEBISCITARY COMMITTEE.

Our Engraving represents a body of gentlemen who are called, or have called themselves, the Central Plebiscitary Committee; but as to how they were appointed, or by whom, we have no information. We may easily conclude, however, when we look at their names, that these gentlemen do not owe their associated position to any popular source. Of MM. d'Albufera and Villiaumez we know little, but the others are pretty conspicuous Ministerialists—if not thoroughgoing Imperialists. M. de la Guéronnière is the editor of *La France* and French Minister in Brussels; Comte Lagrange is chief aide-de-camp to the Minister of Police; M. Emile de Girardin is the well-known journalist, especially noted for the eccentricity, extravagance, and instability of his views, and also, it must be added, for his great ability; and M. Clement Duvernois is a deputy of the Right and editor of the Emperor's special organ, *La Peuple Français*. They are here met to discuss the plebiscitum.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 376.

"IT MOVES!"

ON 21st day of January, 1858, a number of gentlemen were watching the big ship named then the *Leviathan*, now the *Great Eastern*. This monster of the deep was to have been launched on Nov. 3, 1857, and when the shores were not knocked away and what was thought to be sufficient mechanical force was applied, it did glide down the incline a few yards. But then it stopped, and stuck fast; and, notwithstanding all that engineering skill could devise, there it lay, stubbornly immovable, for nearly three months; but on the aforesaid 21st day of January, when an enormous pressure from hydraulic engines and other mechanical devices was brought to bear upon it, suddenly there was a shout—"It moves!—it moves!" and it did move, and slowly, without further hindrance, glided into the river. Well, something analogous to this has happened to the Irish Land Bill. It is about a month since this bill got into Committee. Mr. Gladstone was sanguine then that he should get it through Committee before Easter, and at the outset it moved on like the big ship. The first clause was passed, the second was withdrawn, but at the third the bill stuck fast, and when Easter came it still stuck fast at that third clause. The cause of its immovability was well known. Malign, opponent Tories were the main hindrance. They dislike the bill; but, not being able to defeat it in open fight, they determined, by proposing innumerable amendments, and discussing them at inordinate length, to waste the time, and thus make it impossible for Mr. Gladstone to get the bill up to the House of Lords in time to enable their Lordships "to give it," as the phrase is, "that consideration which the importance of the subject demands." Or, failing this, to prevent the passing of the dreaded Ballot Bill, and the equally distasteful bill for the abolition of University Tests. But the Tories were not the only sinners. Certain disloyal Whigs also, who look with no great favour upon this revolutionary measure, consciously or unconsciously, lent aid to the conspirators. The Irish Radicals, too, were not free from blame. This measure gives these gentlemen much that they want; but, because it does not give them all they want, they, too, imperilled the bill, by proposing impossible amendments and talking incessantly thereon. Thus stood matters on Thursday last week, when the House again went into Committee. The bill seemed still fixed and immovable; but suddenly there came a change, and it began to move on.

MR. HEADLAM.

An amendment moved by Mr. Headlam, and partly discussed before Easter, stood first upon the paper. Do our readers know anything of Mr. Headlam? Possibly not much, as we do not remember that in these columns we ever noticed him. A few words, then, about him may be acceptable. He represents Newcastle, and has represented it twenty-three years. He is a Liberal, and has generally voted loyally with the Liberal party. We have heard, though, that he has occasionally required a nudge from his constituents to keep him straight. But he has always proved, in military phrase, "soft to touch." There is a curious story told about him which exemplifies this. Mr. Headlam is the son of the late Venerable and Rev. John Headlam, Archdeacon of Richmond, Yorkshire, and when he first stood for Newcastle it was understood by the clergy there that, though a Liberal, he would zealously support church rates, as the son of an Archdeacon surely ought to have done; and on this understanding all the clergy rallied round him. But this, when it came to be known, did not suit the Radicals in the town. "Vote for church rates, will he? Then he's no man for us," and promptly a deputation waited upon Mr. Headlam to demand which he would serve, "the parsons or us." Whereupon the hon. gentleman promptly decided for "us;" and the next morning when the clergy came abroad they saw, to their chagrin and disgust, in every shop-window an address from Mr. Headlam pledging himself to vote for the total abolition of church rates. Mr. Headlam is a Cambridge man, and in 1836 came out as sixteenth wrangler. In 1839 he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, of which he is now a Benchet. In 1852 he was made a Q.C. We know not whether he practices now. Some years ago he was not an infrequent speaker in the House; but in 1859 Lord Palmerston made him Judge Advocate-General; and during the seven years through which he held this office he was, except when some business connected with his office came before the House, condemned to silence. Enforced silence must be very irksome, one would think, to a man who likes to speak and can speak. But then, as a solace, Mr. Headlam had £2000 a year, with not much to do for the money—just enough to relieve life of that distressing ennui which is the inevitable attendant of idleness. Mr. Headlam is a fluent, easy speaker. What he has to say he can say with ease and propriety; but, unhappily, he seldom if ever has much to say that the House cares to hear; and so it happens when Mr. Headlam gets up the members go out.

HIS OBSTRUCTIVE AMENDMENT.

We will now recur to Mr. Headlam's amendment, for thereby hangs a tale. He moved the amendment to clause 3, on Tuesday morning, April 8. We need not give the amendment; it is sufficient to say that it would, if it had been carried, have neutralised something which the Committee had already decided should be done. Of course, the Government could not accept the amendment; and, of course, Mr. Headlam could not expect to carry it. The case, then, against Mr. Headlam is this—that, knowing well, as everybody else did, that the amendment could not be carried, he, a member of the Liberal party, persisted in proposing it, made a long speech about it, and got up a debate which wasted four or five hours of most valuable time. In short, instead of assisting his leader in getting the bill through Committee, he obstructed the work. The amendment was "talked out"—that is to say, when the time came for the House to suspend its sitting the debate was not finished, and had to be adjourned over the Easter vacation. This was too bad. The leader of the Liberal party has enough to do to guard his bill against the assaults of its open foes; and that he should be thus pestered and hindered by the restless egotism of professed friends, is very annoying.

THE MEN OF NEWCASTLE TO THE FRONT.

Thus, then, stood matters when the House rose for the holidays; and on Thursday, last week, when the bill again got into Committee, we expected that the discussion upon this wretched amendment would be renewed. But it was not. Now comes the tale. A change, during the vacation, had come over Mr. Headlam's dream; and this is the way the change was brought about. The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, who signs himself "An Independent Member," gave in that paper a graphic account of the position of affairs, and very severely handled Mr. Headlam. This was excerpted and sent to a Newcastle paper, in the columns of which it promptly appeared. Whereupon all the Liberals in Newcastle were aflame. "What!" they said; "our member obstructing and pestering the Prime Minister in his great work! This must be seen to." And it was seen to, promptly, and with effect. They held an indignation meeting, and at once sent, by post or deputation, a stern message to their erring member, presumably in the terms following, or a somewhat similar strain: "We returned you to support the Prime Minister. We learn with dismay that you are obstructing him. You must please to drop that, or"—And so, when the time came for renewing the discussion of this unfortunate amendment, Mr. Headlam was quite a changed man. Before the holidays he was obstinate, almost defiant; now he is apologetic and submissive, though somewhat querulous. Then he was stiff, erect, unbending; now he is limp and flaccid, as a spring plant which has been out all night in a sharp frost. But he was very angry with that "independent member," and in his anger strangely blundered. He was annoyed by the publication of the independent member's severe strictures in two provincial papers; by reading these strictures in the House he got them reprinted in the London papers, and thus sent all over the world. Of course Mr. Headlam had to withdraw his amendment and now mark, readers, how

mischievous this amendment was. The discussion of it on April 8 wasted at least four hours; the withdrawal of it an hour and a half. And now a word or two to the men of Newcastle. They deserve well of their country. Would that the constituencies of some other Liberal members would go and do likewise! Mr. Headlam's amendment out of the way, the bill, as we have said, moved; and before the House rose, two folio pages of amendments were cleared off.

NEWDEGATE'S COMMITTEE.

Our readers will recollect that on March 29 Mr. Newdegate proposed that a Select Committee should be appointed to inquire into the existence, character, and increase of conventual and monastic institutions or societies in Great Britain, and into the terms upon which the property and estates belonging to such institutions and societies or to members thereof are respectively received, held, or possessed. They will also remember that the motion was carried by a majority of two, because the Government whips were negligent; and for that negligence these Government whips deserved a good "wiggling." The carrying of the motion has done no end of mischief. It has agitated the country more than it has been agitated for a long time. It has again raised that hateful "No-Popery" feeling which we had hoped was dead or rapidly dying, but which, it seems, was only dormant; and it has done all this at a most inopportune time. Our gallant Prime Minister is fighting a great battle, and, on the whole, his party has been kept well together; and now there comes this shell right into his ranks, and all night and would have been prevented if the whips had been alert. Five Ministers of the Crown were absent that night. Five swift hansom would probably have brought them all up in half an hour, and then the motion would have been defeated by a majority of three. But, as the proverb says, it is no use crying over spilt milk. We ventured to foretell when this motion was carried that the war was not over yet; and our prophecy has been fulfilled. Before Easter, when the time came for the appointment of the Committee, we had a desperate struggle during the small hours, ending in a drawn battle. The struggle was renewed on Thursday last week, or rather on Friday morning, and raged from half-past one till nearly half-past three, and again with no result, except a hesitating promise from Mr. Bruce, who, in the absence of Mr. Gladstone, had charge of the House, that the Government would make arrangements to secure a division on the main question on the following Monday. Pity that Mr. Bruce did not give this promise at first; we might then all have been in bed at two instead of four. This was the latest sitting of the Session.

GLADSTONE'S GENERALSHIP.

On Monday the discussion was renewed by arrangement at eleven o'clock. This time Mr. Gladstone was in his place. His lieutenant, Mr. Bruce, had led in two futile struggles, and now the commander-in-chief himself appears to settle by force or arrangement this ugly business. It frets him. It obstructs his progress, and must somehow be cleared out of the way. There was a very large gathering of members when the hour came. A glance round the House told us that there were nearly 500, and it was easy to see that, if the Prime Minister could have depended upon all his men, he might gain the victory in open fight; but this he could not do. The Scotch Liberals were most of them shaky, or resolutely opponent. Many of the English Liberals, too. Such men as Thomas Chambers, the Common Sergeant; Mr. Whalley—in short, most of the unco'-pious Evangelical school—had deserted, and were prepared again to desert, their chief. To beat Mr. Newdegate by force, then, was impossible. But may he not be defeated by stratagem? The sagacious leader of the Liberal party thinks so, and will try. Rumour, long before the hour of eleven came, had whispered that the matter was to be squared, though how nobody seemed to know. Some said that Newdegate would not have it squared, but would fight it out to the last. But, perhaps, if he should be obstinate, his followers may not; and if this should prove so, Newdegate's obstinacy will be of no avail. And now we will explain the Prime Minister's strategy. Mr. Newdegate's motion aimed at two distinct objects:—First, to have an inquiry into the existence, character, &c., of conventual and monastic institutions, &c.; secondly, to investigate the terms upon which the property of these institutions is received, held, or possessed. Now, as Mr. Gladstone pondered this matter, no doubt it struck him that as the motion aimed at two objects, so the followers of Mr. Newdegate comprised two sections—one, anxious to attain both these objects; another, only anxious to get the property question investigated. If, he would argue, we can get rid of the first part of the motion, which is by far the most obnoxious to the Roman Catholics, we may, notwithstanding Newdegate's obstinacy, get this matter settled and out of our way. This, then, was Mr. Gladstone's policy, and it was entirely successful. His proposition was that the order for appointing the Committee should be discharged, promising that, this done, he would propose a new motion for a Committee which would confine its investigation to the tenure of property by monastic and conventual establishments. The effect of this proposal was as he expected it would be. It cut Mr. Newdegate's party in two; or, in other words, denuded him of half his strength; and, when division came on the question that the original order be discharged, there was, in spite of Mr. Newdegate's protest, a majority of 110 for the Government; and, on Mr. Gladstone's new motion, a majority of 291. It is worthy of notice that, just before this division, forty or fifty Conservatives left the House. What their motive was it is difficult to discover. There is another curious fact. Mr. Disraeli voted, in the first division, against the Government proposal; Mr. Gathorne Hardy for it. Lord John Manners, though present, did not vote in either of the divisions. Mr. Gladstone has been accused of want of tact. Here we had a display of skilful generalship. After the manner of Nelson, he broke the enemy's line. Rumour says that many of the Conservatives of the High Church school were not sorry to be thus defeated; and well they might be so, for it had come out in the debate that Mr. Newdegate's motion embraced Anglican as well as Roman Catholic monasteries and nunneries.

WALLS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.—A short time back the attention of the council of the Society of Antiquaries of London was called to the fact that the walls of Constantinople were threatened with destruction at the hands of the Turkish Government. A memorial on the subject was at once drawn up by the council and communicated by Lord Stanhope, president of the society, to her Majesty's Foreign Secretary, the Earl of Clarendon. It is matter for sincere congratulation to find that the memorial has produced the desired effect. In Lord Stanhope's annual address, delivered, on the 26th ult., before the Society of Antiquaries, a letter was read from Mr. Hammond stating, on behalf of Lord Clarendon, that the Turkish Government had no intention of destroying the walls. We trust, however, that both the society and the Foreign Office will keep their eyes open in case the Turkish Government should resume the work of demolition.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.—The Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control held its annual meeting, on Tuesday evening, in the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street.—Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., in the chair. Mr. Corvill Williams, secretary, read the report of the executive committee, which reviewed the society's proceedings, and congratulated its supporters on the passing of the Irish Church Act and the cessation of the establishment of the Church in Jamaica and the Bahamas. These events had determined the committee to assail energetically the establishments in England and Scotland. The Education Bill was referred to in condemnatory terms, as the society considered that national education ought never to be used as a means of aggrandising any religious body. The treasurer's statement showed that the amount available for the year's operations had been £687 19s. 4d., and that the expenditure had been £607 18s. 6d. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. F. Trevellick, Mr. Miall, M.P., Mr. Tillingworth, M.P., Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P., and others, who supported resolutions expressing gratitude for the Church disestablishments, the passing of the Endowed Schools Act, and the introduction of a measure for the abolition of ecclesiastical tests in the Universities; a hope that the principles of the Education Bill now before Parliament will be modified before receiving the sanction of the Legislature; and also a hope that the executive committee will prepare for such action as will raise for discussion, in and out of Parliament, the desirability of disestablishing the Church in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships were engaged for two hours and a half in the discussion of the High Court of Judicature Bill, which the LORD CHANCELLOR proposed to recommend for the purpose of introducing amendments to various objections raised to the measure on the second reading. Lords Cairnes, Cairns, Westbury, and Penzance participated in the debate, which closed upon the understanding that the committee of the bill should be postponed for a few days.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE MR. BUXTON.

Colonel FRENCH having put a question as to the truth of the report that Mr. Buxton, member for East Surrey, had that morning been fired at by a person who, according to one version of the story, had been an old tenant on the hon. gentleman's Irish estate, and, according to another, a man who had formerly been his secretary.

Mr. BUTT explained the facts of the case as they had been communicated to him by Colonel Henderson, the Chief Commissioner of Police, which it appears that the culprit was not an evil-doing Irish tenant of Mr. Buxton, but a shorthand writer named White, who had been in the hon. gentleman's employ, and whom he had recently dismissed for inattention and impertinence. Mr. Buxton was engaged in writing when a shot was fired, and on looking up he saw White standing at the door, with a revolver still smoking in his hand. The man succeeded in making his escape, but information of the circumstance had been conveyed to the police, who were then in pursuit of the fugitive.

THE CASE OF COLONEL BOXER.

Mr. O'REILLY directed attention to the papers relating to Colonel Boxer's resignation of the office he lately held in the Royal Laboratory, and to the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the circumstances which had led to that result. The motion elicited an explanation from

Sir J. PAKINGTON, during whose administration of the War Office the transactions took place which received the censure of the department and led to the retirement of Colonel Boxer. The conduct of Colonel Boxer in connection with the manufacture of certain patented inventions of his was severely animadverted upon by the right hon. Baronet, who declared that he had known when in office what he did now, he should have felt bound to call upon him to resign, and, possibly, have brought his proceedings under the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, with a view of ascertaining whether it was consistent with his position as a Colonel of artillery.

Mr. WHITWELL expressed his opinion, the result of studying the correspondence on the subject, that the action of Sir J. Pakington in the matter, confirmed as it had been by the present war authorities, was perfectly justifiable.

Mr. CARDWELL contended that the War Office was free from all censure, and on that ground the Government declined to consent to the proposed inquiry.

After a few words from Colonel ANSON, who treated as equally at fault the War Office and Colonel Boxer, the motion for a Committee was withdrawn.

COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES.

In reply to observations from Sir G. Jenkinson on the case of the reprieved convict Spina, Mr. BRUCE said he had never overruled the decision of a Judge without having consulted with and received the full concurrence of that Judge. In the case of Spina a new and important evidence had been forthcoming after the conviction of the accused, and this he had submitted to the Judge who had presided at the trial, and had received for answer that if the evidence had been produced before the jury the result would have been different. In this view the Lord Chancellor, whom he had also consulted, fully agreed.

POOR RELIEF (METROPOLIS) BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Poor Relief (Metropolis) Bill, Mr. FIELDEN moved that the Chairman be ordered to report progress; but, upon a division, only the tellers voted for the motion. The bill then resolved itself into Committee, and, with the substitution of fivepence for sixpence as the daily allowance from the common fund for each indoor pauper, the bill was permitted to pass.

MONDAY, MAY 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister was brought up from the Commons, and, having been read a first time, Lord HORTON gave notice that he should move the second reading on Tuesday, the 17th inst.

Their Lordships also gave a second reading to the County Court Building Bill, and passed the Customs (Isle of Man) Bill and the Survey of Great Britain Bill through Committee.

In answer to the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord GRANVILLE said that the Lord Privy Seal would shortly introduce a bill to repeal the Ecclesiastical Titles Act; and that the marriage law of Ireland was under the consideration of the law officers with a view to legislation this Session.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON gave notice of a bill to amend the law relating to procedure at Parliamentary elections.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The House then went into Committee on the Irish Land Bill, when Mr. SYNAN proposed that instead of thirty-one years, as contained in the bill, a lease of not less than sixty-one years should exonerate the landlord from the operation of the clause providing compensation for disturbance of occupancy, but, finding no support from Ministers or his own friends, withdrew it after a brief discussion.

Dr. BALL then moved his amendment, which went in the opposite direction, by providing that a lease for twenty-one years should exempt from damages for eviction, preserving, however, the right of the tenant to claim compensation in respect of such improvements as consist of permanent buildings and the reclamation of land, or tillages or manures, the benefit of which is unexhausted at the time of the tenant quitting his holding.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON opposed the amendment, mainly on the ground that Ministers had already made concessions enough to the landlord interest, and that a twenty-one years' lease would not give adequate protection to the tenant.

On the Committee dividing, the amendment of Dr. Ball was defeated by 290 to 209. No other point of importance was raised until

Dr. BALL moved a sub-section disentitling the tenants of exclusively pastoral holdings to compensation for disturbance, and giving occupiers of land partly agricultural and partly pastoral compensation in respect of the former only.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE expressed the readiness of the Government to accede to the principle of the proposal, and, having undertaken to bring up a carefully considered clause to carry out the object, this assurance was accepted by Dr. Ball, who thereupon withdrew his amendment.

On the motion of Mr. C. FORTESCUE, it was agreed to limit the operation of the clause compensating for eviction to holdings under the annual value of £100. The paragraph in the same clause declaring void all contracts entered into for depriving the tenant of the right to claim compensation was amended, at the instance of Mr. C. FORTESCUE, by limiting the provision to twenty years from Jan. 1 next, and thereafter until Parliament should otherwise determine.

CONVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Mr. NEWDEGATE rose to explain, by the indulgence of the House, the exact purpose with which he proposed to inquire into conventual and monastic institutions, the purport of his statement being that, although his primary object was to inquire into the accumulation and administration of property, he also desired to extend the investigation to the character and discipline of these institutions.

Mr. WINTERBOTHAM, while declaring his hostility to spiritual oppression and priestly power, objected to the proposed inquiry on the ground that it would excite unkindly, uncharitable, and unchristian feelings, and would lead to no useful result. Towards the close of his speech Mr. Winterbotham expressed his incredulity as to the progress of Roman Catholicism in this country, and excited hilarious cheers by asking how many doctors, lawyers, or artisans deserted Protestantism, and declaring that the converts were almost all "women, parsons, and peers."

Mr. GLADSTONE suggested that the terms of reference should be so amended as to confine the investigation to the state of the law respecting them and the terms on which they hold property. He therefore recommended that the original order should be discharged, and that he should be allowed to move a new one.

Mr. NEWDEGATE allowed his proposal to intrust to the Committee of Selection the nomination of this Committee to be negatived without a division; but he refused to consent to the discharge of the original order of reference, as that would be to reverse the decision already come to by the House, and substitute for the inquiry he desired an investigation of an entirely different character. When a division was taken there was a majority in favour of the course proposed of 110—270 to 169; and immediately afterwards Mr. GLADSTONE proposed a new order of reference in the terms which he had suggested. Upon this proposal, a short conversation took place as to whether Anglican nunneries were or ought to be within the scope of the inquiry; but, in the end, the motion was carried by a majority of 291—318 to 57.

TUESDAY, MAY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Bankruptcy Law Amendment (Ireland) Bill was read the second time with little observation; but the same stage of the War Office Bill,

from the Commons, was the occasion of some debate, in which the object of the measure was criticised by the Duke of Richmond, Lord Longford, and Lord Hardinge. The objections were not, however, pressed further, though Lord Grey expressed his disappointment at the Government not having availed themselves of the opportunity to thoroughly reorganise the Survey of Great Britain Bill were read the third time and passed; and a bill was laid upon the table by the Bishop of Winchester to abolish sequestration for debt.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER stated, for the information of Mr. Liddell, that on the Education Bill becoming law it would be the duty of the Government to reconsider the conditions on which grants were made for training schools, and those on which certificates of masters were given. The number of pupils in training colleges had increased in the last year, and was still increasing, and at the present moment the various training institutions would be able to furnish a teaching force for more than 25,000 schools.

THE MASSACRE IN GREECE.

Mr. OTWAY, replying to an inquiry of Sir J. Elphinstone, explained that no communications had been addressed by the Foreign Office to the Admiralty for the withdrawal of the naval force usually maintained in Greek waters. On the Foreign Secretary being informed that the squadron under the command of Admiral Sir Alexander Milne was about to proceed to the Helles, after the massacre of our countrymen, he at once sent orders to stop it, as he did not think it right that an English squadron should receive the hospitality of Greece, under the circumstances. With regard to Mrs. Lloyd, the widow of one of the murdered men, he had every reason to expect that suitable provision for her present wants and the maintenance of herself and child hereafter would be made by the Greek Government.

THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Mr. BIRLEY, in moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the commercial treaty with France in the various branches of trade which it affects, urged as reasons for his motion that the treaty had not fulfilled the anticipations formed of it, but had greatly disappointed them; that, having arrived at the expiration of the term for which it was made, the present was an opportune moment for investigation; and that France herself had instituted such an inquiry; whilst an eminent French statesman had admitted, in the Legislative Chamber, that there was a necessity for introducing modifications. Beneficial as the treaty had proved to the moneyed and trading classes and the merchant and shipping interest, as distinct from the manufacturing, he contended that it had not increased the employment of our working people, but had done the very reverse.

Mr. STAVELEY HILL moved an amendment extending the inquiry to the effect upon our commerce and manufactures of our treaty arrangements with foreign countries generally. The true gauge and test of the benefit arising from these contracts was the condition of the labouring classes, and that was by no means satisfactory. Since 1860, the year of the French treaty, pauperism had gone on steadily augmenting, and the tide of emigration of the bone and sinew of the country was constantly increasing in volume; and these results he attributed mainly to the action of the treaty with France.

After some observations by Sir T. BAZLEY and Mr. LIDDELL, directed against the motion,

Mr. LEFAYRE said he regarded the inquiry as unnecessary, for there was nothing to be ascertained beyond what was already accessible to the House. He admitted that there were certain portions of the treaty which required modification, and the Government were now negotiating with that of France in the hope of inducing them to lower some of the duties. As to the silk manufacture, he did not deny that for the last few years it had suffered greatly from the French treaty; but he reminded the House that before 1860, even when that branch of industry enjoyed a protective duty of from 18 to 20 per cent, it was always in a precarious condition. Moreover, although the treaty had not answered quite as well as had been expected, it had created branches of trade that had not existed before.

The debate was continued by Mr. S. Cave, Mr. Platt, Lord J. Manners, Mr. Brocklehurst, Mr. Wheelhouse, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Bowring, Mr. J. Fielden, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Pell, and Mr. Hibbert.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that the supporters of the motion had all, with the exception of Mr. Birley, made the French Treaty a stalking-horse for the advocacy of protection. He contended that if the Committee asked for were granted on the force of such arguments, it would but add strength to the protectionist interest in France, and eventually lead to the French Government putting an end to the treaty altogether.

Mr. NEWDEGATE, speaking in support of the motion, declared that weaker arguments than had been brought against it by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and its other opponents he had never heard.

Mr. DELAHUNTY made some characteristic remarks, which he wound up with the exclamation, "Down with Protection, and up with Free Trade!"

The amendment of Mr. S. Hill was withdrawn, and after a brief reply from Mr. BIRLEY, the House divided, and negatived the resolution by 138 to 50.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT moved the second reading of the bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women who are otherwise eligible in respect of property qualification for its exercise, and argued that the female sex in this country are in a very little better position than the negroes in the Southern States of America before the late civil war.

Colonel SYKES having seconded the motion, Mr. SCOURFIELD moved the "previous question," and, readily conceding everything that could be advanced in praise of "lovely woman," opposed the bill because there was no evidence to show that it was the desire of the sex themselves to have the voting franchise conferred upon them.

Mr. W. FOWLER seconded the amendment, and contended that the legitimate sphere of women's influence was in their own homes, and not in the political arena.

Sir C. DILKE spoke in favour of the bill. Mr. B. HOPE pronounced the bill an insult to married women, because it excluded them from its provisions, and a fragmentary and illogical piece of legislation. If there were women voters there would also be women canvassers and women bribers; and they all knew how difficult it would be to convict a woman!

Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR argued that the introduction of women's influence into politics would be advantageous to the State, inasmuch as it would impart a higher morality, and the Legislature would then be induced to devote more of its attention to such questions as the health of the community, the education of the public, the care of the poor, and the treatment of the sick in infirmaries and at their own homes.

Sir G. JENKINSON and Mr. MUNTZ supported the bill, which was opposed by Sir H. CROFT.

Mr. Secretary BRUCE, in the name of the Government, expressed himself favourable to delay, owing to the many points involved in the question and the inability of Ministers, under the pressure of public business, to give that consideration to the proposal to which its importance was entitled. The House divided, and, having negatived the "previous question" by 124 to 91, gave the bill the second reading amid loud cheers.

THURSDAY, MAY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In reply to Lord Lyveden Lord GRANVILLE made an explanation with regard to the Red River expedition, which he said would, according to a telegram he had received from Sir John Young that afternoon, be one of peace. The Government had insisted upon conditions with regard to this expedition, and the Canadian Government had not only agreed to them but had even gone beyond them in their offers. The Government had assented to the Imperial troops being employed in the expedition, two thirds of the cost being paid by the Dominion. Everything would be done to promote that amicable settlement which he hoped would be arrived at.

Earl DE GREY moved the second reading of the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill, the object of which is to assimilate the regulations of the several bodies which at present conduct examinations with a view to admit gentlemen to the medical profession.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE presented a petition from the College of Physicians in Ireland against it, and moved that the second reading be postponed until Tuesday, May 17. After considerable discussion the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.

Mr. BOUVIERIE gave notice that, on the motion for going into Committee upon this bill, he should move that the House resolve itself into the said Committee that day six months.

Mr. C. RAIKES also gave notice that, in the event of the bill becoming law, he should seek to insert a provision to the effect that the votes of women should be taken by means of voting-papers.

COINAGE FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Mr. LOWE, in reply to Mr. DIXON, said that it was quite true that the Mint authorities had entered into an arrangement with the Republic of Uruguay to execute an order for coinage for that country. In his opinion it was exceedingly desirable to undertake contracts for coinage for foreign countries rather than the works at the Mint should be kept idle.

THE ALTERATIONS IN HYDE PARK.

Mr. AYRTON, in answer to Sir Henry Hoare, said that, in re-arranging the boundaries of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, a portion of the park would be transferred to the gardens for the benefit of pedestrians.

THE SUPPRESSION OF BETTING-HOUSES.

Mr. BRUCE, replying to Mr. T. Hughes, said that, in consequence of information received at the Home Office in connection with betting-houses,

proceedings had been instituted in several cases against the keepers of such houses. The effect of these proceedings had been considerable. One effect had been to raise an important question, which was now before the courts of law; and another had been that some of the persons proceeded against had fled to Scotland, where the present law was not in force. The Lord Advocate, however, would in a short time bring in a bill to extend the law to Scotland. The whole subject was under consideration, and he hoped before long to introduce a bill to remedy the defects of the existing law.

THE MASSACRE IN GREECE.

Mr. OTWAY, in reply to Mr. Guest, said that no fresh information had been received with reference to the recent murders in Greece, except that ten persons were in custody on suspicion, and three magistrates had been sent into the country by the Greek Government to collect evidence.

THE INSPECTION OF CONVENTS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to Mr. Newdegate, said that, if not before, he hoped to nominate the Select Committee on this subject next Monday.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The Committee resumed the consideration of clause 3. Sir J. GRAY moved an amendment forbidding that the owner of an estate might, by registering it in the Landed Estates Court in a prescribed form, relieve it from the operation of the Act, and so bring it under the provisions of the "Permissive Parliamentary Tenure Right," subject to these rules, that the rent shall be subject to mutual agreement; that, failing mutual agreement as to rent, either party may apply to the Court to arbitrate between them at periods of fourteen years; that the tenant may sell or assign his interest as a whole, but not subject without the consent of the landlord or the sanction of the Court, subject to the right of pre-emption on the part of the landlord; and that the landlord cannot disturb, except for non-payment of rent, subletting, or wilful waste. Mr. Gladstone thought the amendment ought to be deferred to a later stage of the bill. Mr. C. Fortescue said the amendments were not connected with the present clause. Sir J. Gray hoped, as the amendments were sanctioned by the tenant farmers of Ireland, they would be considered hereafter. The amendments were withdrawn.

Dr. BALL moved to insert that the Court, in awarding compensation, should have regard to the terms and conditions under which the tenant originally obtained possession of the holding, and to any special circumstances connected therewith. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the addition was unnecessary, and, after some more discussion, it was withdrawn. Mr. D. FORTESCUE having declined to press his amendment, Lord ELCHO would not delay the progress of the bill further than to say that all that Government had advanced in favour of the clause had strengthened his first view that it was unjust in principle, and for the first time introduced into legislation the principle of compensation without compensation. He should take an opportunity, at a future stage, of moving an amendment which would tend to put the principle of compensation on a clearer and sounder basis.

Clause 3, as amended, was agreed to amid cheers. The remainder of the night was occupied with the consideration of the other clauses.

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"WHAT SHALL BE MY SONG TO-NIGHT?"—The name of the lady who painted this picture was by mistake printed "Mrs. Chatteris" instead of "Mrs. Charlotte," in our last week's Number.



MR. DISRAELI.

The world has been deluged with sayings about Mr. Disraeli which were intended to be smart, and in the natural reaction which carried Mr. Gladstone into power he was probably treated with some injustice. It has been said, among other small absurdities, that he has an imperturbable, sphinx-like face; to which it has been aptly replied that, if Mr. Disraeli's face is inscrutable, it is because its expression is uniform, being that of a man just about to cry. The right hon. gentleman has also been habitually spoken of as a striking example of the way in which a man in England may begin from nothing and rise to the highest offices of the State. But both Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli began life with almost every conceivable advantage: they both had high-class education; they both had sufficient money, and a sufficient circle of acquaintances, to give them the key of good society, and the necessary point of leverage for making their way upwards. They both deserve all honour for what they have achieved; but it is nonsense to write about them as if they had begun life without a bad pair of boots in a three-pair back. The curious point in Mr. Disraeli's antecedents is his Jewish extraction; but, after all, there is no more reason, in the nature of things, against a Jew being a successful politician than against a Jew holding the purse-strings of Europe.

The new novel of "Lothair" has once more brought Mr. Disraeli before the people of England in a light in which we have for some time been unaccustomed to regard him. But, as might be expected, the new book does not illuminate a single dusky corner of Mr. Disraeli's history or personal qualities. "Lothair" greatly strengthens the belief of most sensible men that we shall know nothing of Disraeli the man until after his death. It has all the well-recognised characteristics of his writing. It has the Oriental love of luxury, splendour, and perfume. It has, in general, a sort of Oriental consciousness about it; but this is strictly a consciousness, and is not the simple, unconscious atmosphere of the East which might be expected from the writings of a man who was naturally, simply, and merely by destiny Semitic. The book is pervaded, like "Tancred," of which it will strongly remind Mr. Disraeli's admirers, by suggestions of the religious functions of the Semitic race; but all this is rather thin, and, one is almost tempted to say, a little histrionic, though perfectly sincere. Everywhere we recognise the hand that made Tancred inform the Bishop that he wanted to see an "angel at Manchester;" and everywhere there is something unsatisfactory.

It is a curious fact that the Jewish literary intellect has so often in Western Europe turned out cynical or quasi-cynical products. In spite of the immense differences

between the two men, Mr. Disraeli constantly reminds you of Heine; and, whatever he may be in private life, he is in literature, before all things, a cynic. Not an immoral cynic, and certainly not a disagreeable one; but a cynic in the sense that his words usually suggest a greater burden of thought, feeling, and intention than the story or the argument can really bear up. When Tancred wanted to go to Jerusalem, and his father and mother desired to keep him at home, Lord Eskdale, an accomplished man of the world, was called in to do what the Bishop had failed to accomplish, and to perplex and pre-occupy the young man with yachts and pretty girls. He goes to Jerusalem; but the Duke and Duchess of Bellamont arrive there also, just in time to bring about a conclusion in which nothing is concluded. In "Lothair" the conclusion is more definite, but it is no stronger. The hero, after having been tossed about between the rock of Popery and the whirlpool of Revolution, comes back placidly to his first love, and the ship disappears from our sight in water as smooth as a mill-pond. To Mr. Disraeli's genius we do not think justice has yet been done; but that he should ever be a statesman is simply impossible. His books abundantly disclose the fact that, while he can conceive of different classes of men bound together by various ties, he cannot conceive of humanity as a total, or refer matters of detail to abstract principles. Of scientific intelligence he is absolutely destitute. His great rival is well known to be an inconsistent theorist; but Mr. Disraeli's mind is consistent upon the strength of assumptions, in which the elephant rests upon the tortoise and the tortoise upon nowhere. It was his hap to carry household suffrage, and he has been Premier of England; but few men in the whole history of the world have ever for so long a time occupied a position requiring either scientific intelligence or practical grip (for Lord Palmerston had none of the first) while possessing so very little of either. If Mr. Disraeli had written only books we might have understood him, for they would probably have contained very little of what Mr. Disraeli takes for politics. But, what with his avowed forte for sedition, his cruel persecution of Peel, his general amenity, his leading the Tory party, his educating the Tory party, his passing the Reform Bill of Household Suffrage, which he must have known, if he had the sagacity of a dodo, could only have one result; and his finally retiring from the Premiership by gracefully handing over to Mr. Gladstone a majority of 120 practically at the bidding of Mr. Bright,—we must give up Mr. Disraeli as a sheer puzzle. We hoped against hope that "Lothair" might help us; but the conundrum is still unanswered.

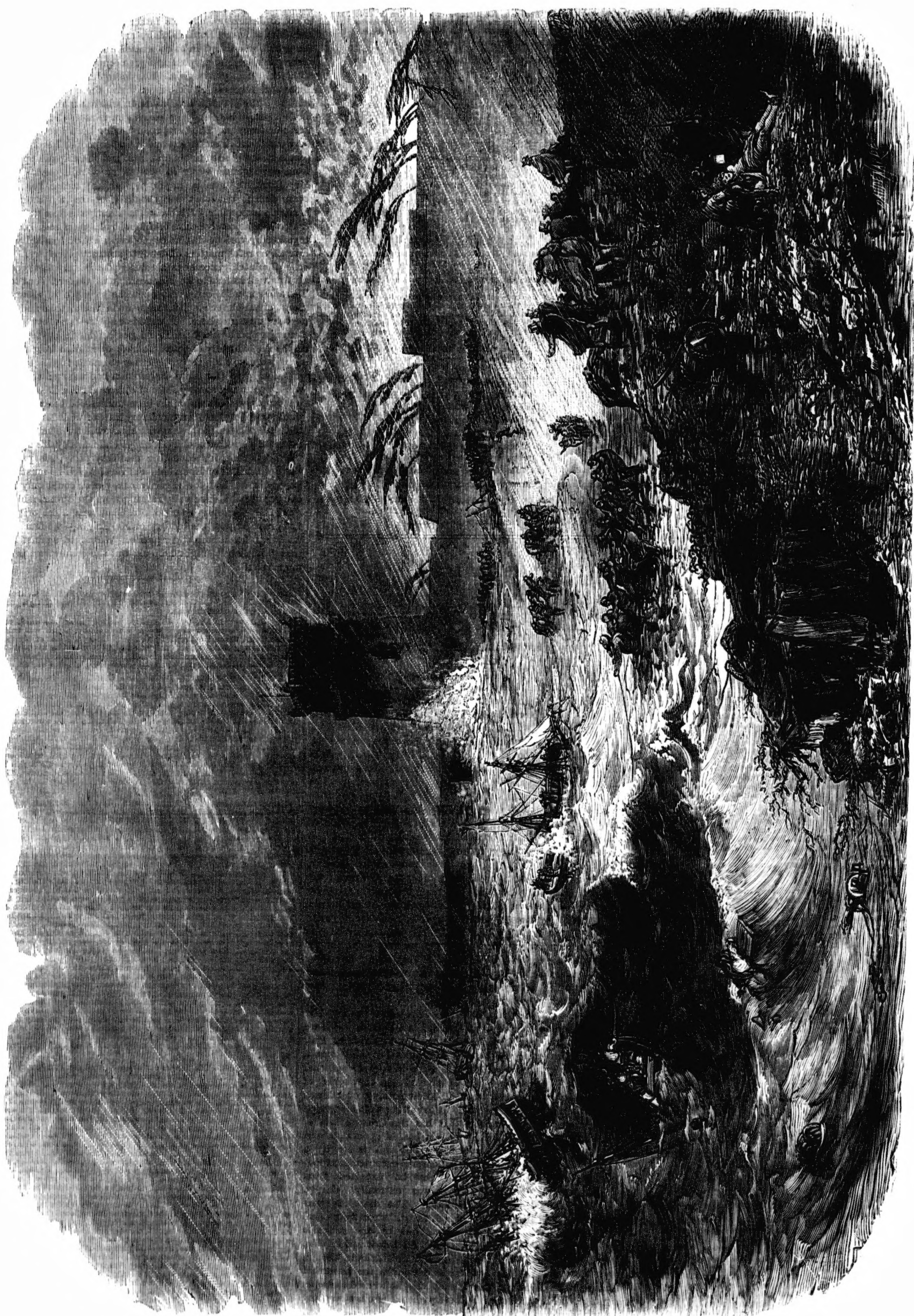
SIR SHAFTO ADAIR, the Liberal candidate for East Suffolk, is likely to have a "walk over," the Conservatives having difficulty in finding a gentleman willing to contest the seat.

LORD SHAFTESBURY, on Wednesday, presided over the anniversary gathering of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was held at Exeter Hall. The annual report gave a satisfactory account of the operations of the organisation; and the chairman, in commenting upon this fact, predicted that in the approaching conflict between truth and iniquity the Bible would be found "truth itself—the one thing needful for time and for eternity."

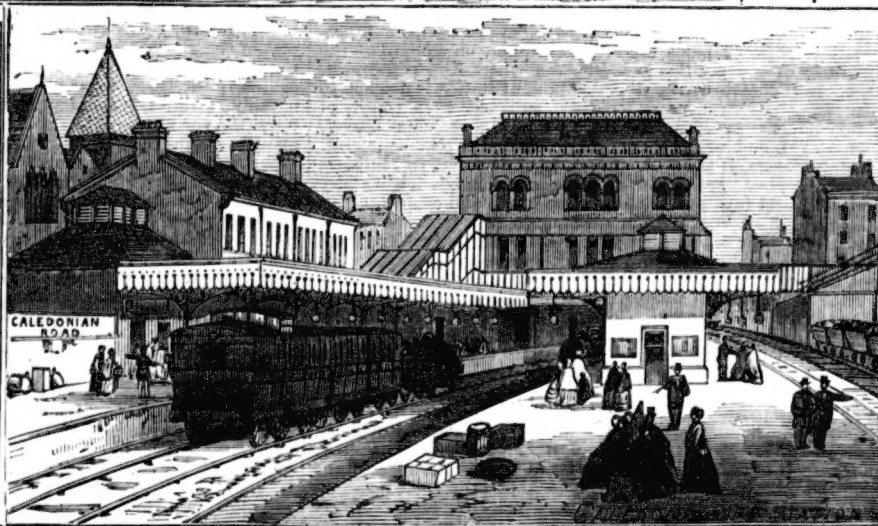
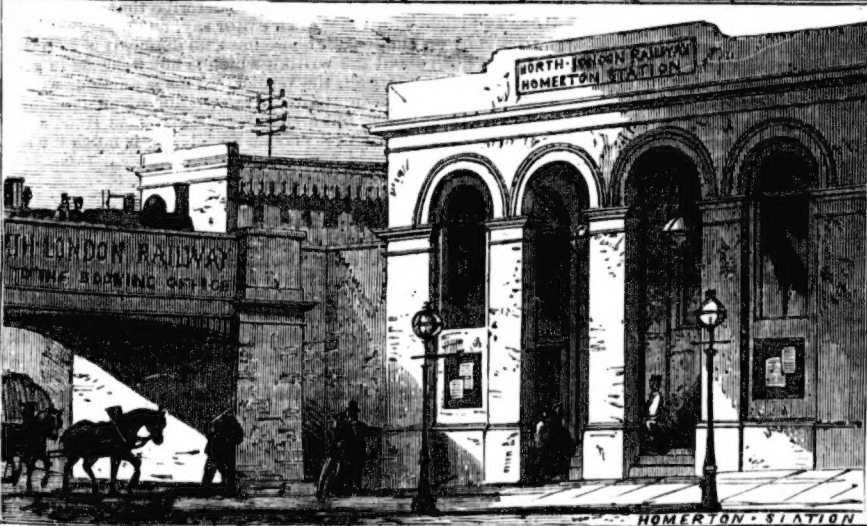
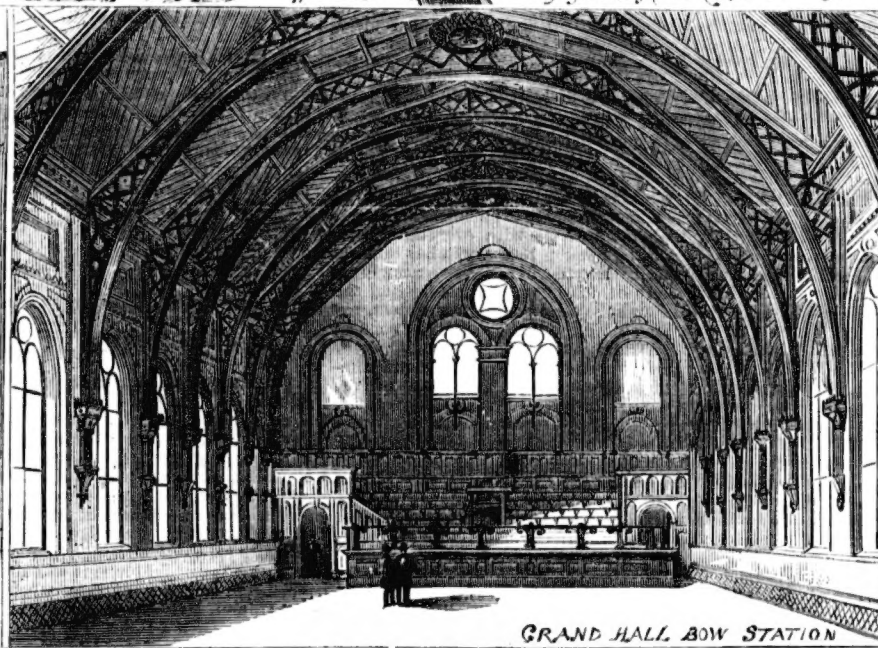
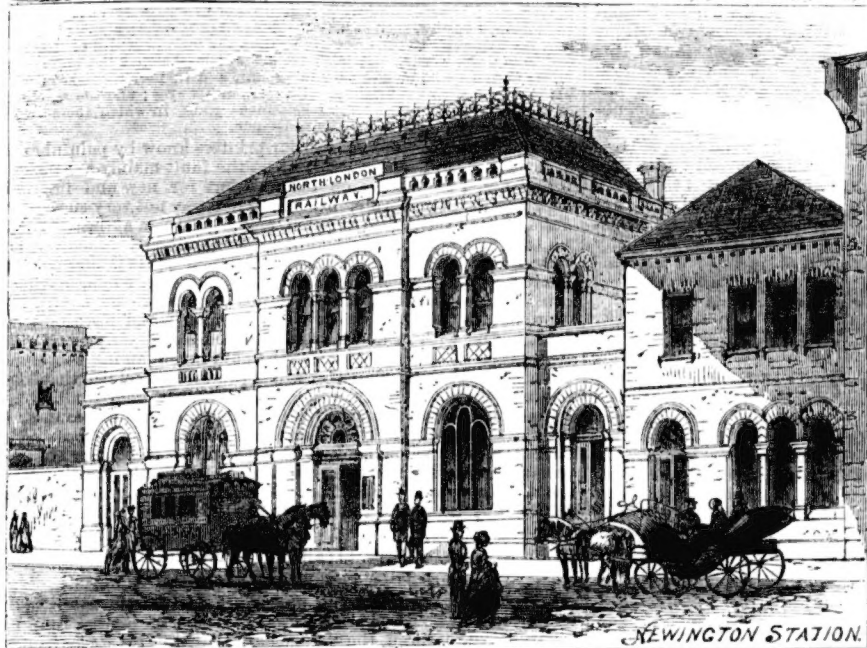
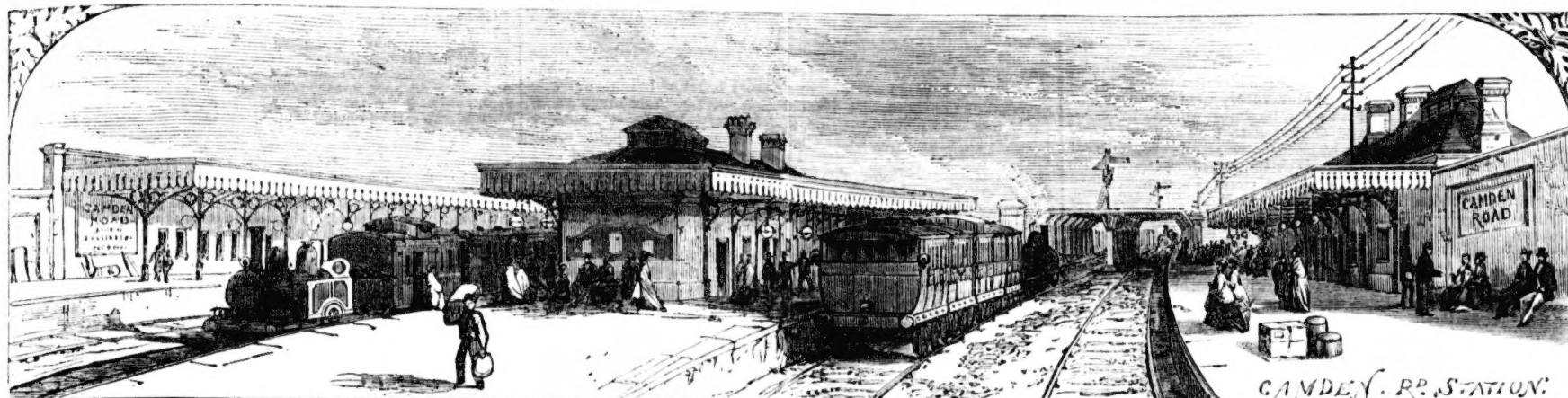
THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—A return has been issued of all pictures purchased for the National Gallery from December, 1865, up to the present time, of pictures presented to the nation during the same period, and of the amount spent in purchasing pictures and maintaining the establishment. The "Madonna and Infant Christ," ascribed to Michael Angelo, formerly belonging to the late Lord Taunton, was bought last month for £2000. Among the presentations this year is a "Madonna and Child," by C. Crivelli, given by the Dowager Marchioness of Westminster. The total amount expended in purchasing pictures for the period mentioned is £27,992 18s. The cost of the establishment in 1866 was £5523; in 1867, £5746; in 1868, £5586; in 1869, £5316; and in the present year, £7765; but this last includes £2008 for the purchase of the library of the late Sir Charles Eastlake.

IMPORTANT DECISION UNDER THE LAW OF MORTMAIN.—Vice-Chancellor Mallins had before him on Wednesday a case, "Hawkins v. Allen," which involved the question of the validity of a gift of £5000, made by Miss Susan Delancey, an elderly lady of large fortune, living at Cheltenham, for the purpose of building a fever hospital in that town. Mr. Hawkins, a surgeon who attended Miss Delancey, had spoken to her of the necessity of having a fever hospital established in Cheltenham, and a few days before her death she signed a cheque for £5000, which was invested in the joint names of Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Swinnett, who executed a deed poll, declaring that they held the money for the purpose of establishing a fever hospital after Miss Delancey's death. Having been advised, however, that there was some doubt whether a valid trust had been created, they filed a bill to obtain a legal decision on the subject. The next of kin contended that the gift, being a gift of money to be laid out in land, and not having been made more than twelve months before Miss Delancey's death, was void under the Statute of Mortmain. The Vice-Chancellor said he should have been glad to find that the next of kin were willing to carry out the wishes of Miss Delancey; but, as an objection had been raised, he was bound to decide whether the case came within the Statute of Mortmain or not. The gift stood in the same position as if it had been a bequest by will, and the object of the Statute of Mortmain was expressed by the preamble to be to prevent gifts to charitable purposes by dying or languishing persons. His opinion was that this gift was within both the policy and the express enactment of the statute, and that consequently it was invalid, and would revert to the next of kin. If such a transaction as this were to stand it would open an easy means of evading the statute; and though in the particular case before the Court it might have been a very proper and desirable object to establish a fever hospital, it could not be carried into effect without an infringement of the law.

CONVOCATION.—The Houses of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury met on Tuesday, in the Jerusalem Chamber—the Bishop of London presiding, in the absence of the Archbishop of the Province. In the Upper House a report approving of the schedule of lessons drawn up by the Ritual Commissioners was adopted, on the motion of the Bishop of Winchester. A memorial on the present aspect of the Ritual question was presented to their Lordships from fifty resident clergymen of the Province, in which the following passages occur:—"Your memorialists are anxious to draw the attention of your Right Reverend House to the recent decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and the Dean of Arches in interpreting the Ritual law of the Church of England. It appears to your memorialists that those decisions are contradictory to one another, and, in some points at least, are contrary to long-established custom, so that any attempt to enforce them will be fraught with danger to the best interests of the Church of England." A motion to the effect that the following resolution be carried into action was adopted on the proposition of the Bishop of Winchester:—"1. That it is desirable that a revision of the authorised version of the Holy Scriptures be undertaken. 2. That the revision be so conducted as to comprise both marginal renderings and such emendations as it may be found necessary to insert in the text of the authorised version. 3. That in the above resolutions we do not contemplate any new translation of the Bible or any alteration of the language, except where, in the judgment of the most competent scholars, such change is necessary. 4. That in such necessary changes the style of the language employed in the existing version be closely followed. 5. That it is desirable that Convocation should nominate a body of its own members to undertake the task of revision, who shall be at liberty to invite the co-operation of those eminent for scholarship, to whatever nation or religious body they may belong." In the Lower House—Archdeacon Bickersteth, the Prolocutor, presiding—Canon Selwyn presented a report regarding the revision of the Scriptures similar to that indicated in the Upper House, which was adopted. A debate arose on the subject of the schedule of the Ritual Commissioners referred to above, and had not concluded when the sitting terminated.



SCENE DURING THE LATE DESTRUCTIVE STORM AT LISBON.



NEW STATIONS ON THE NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

TERRIBLE CYCLONE AT LISBON.

THE occurrence one phase of which is represented in our Engraving has been scarcely less terrifying in its suggestions than the earthquake of 1755, though, happily, its consequences have been far less disastrous and its dangers considerably below those of the historical calamity of Lisbon. It was on the night of the 19th of last month that a fearful tempest passed over the Tagus and reached the city. Some atmospheric disturbance had been anticipated, and observations of barometric divergences had led the astronomers at the official observatory to expect a violent storm. The people of the coast were, like most sailors, too careless of these weather signs, and neglected to take any extraordinary precautions, so that when at last the tempest broke, with all the fury of a tropical convulsion, they were not prepared for its amazing violence. Everything that the courage and determination of a few of those upon the coast could accomplish was done to meet the calamity; but nothing could avail against the rush of water and the whirlpool made by the eddying wind to prevent the loss of many of those among the unfortunate crews who were swept from the decks of their ill-fated and unmanageable vessels; while persons who were thrown ashore or hauled upon the beach by the exertions of those who rushed to their assistance were bruised and bleeding from the effects of their fight for life. Right opposite to the commercial square of the city this terrible conflict of the elements was at its height, and even in the streets the inhabitants could not stand against the fury of the wind and rain. The English squadron moored in the port of Lisbon rode out the storm without damage, for their commanders had prepared for it, and, by attention to the signs of the barometer and astronomical warnings, were ready to meet the danger.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS.

WE this week publish an Engraving showing certain new stations recently erected, or now in course of erection, on the North London Railway; and copy from the *Daily News* the following excellent account of the works:—

"Not long since the North London Railway was thought to be so perfect in its system and management as to be beyond improvement. Time, however, with railways as with everything else, works wonders, and to the North London Railway it has brought the necessity of extensive improvements which involve altogether an expenditure of little short of £250,000. In 1846, when the railway world may be said to have been young, the project, not without some fear and trembling, was mooted to connect the old London and Birmingham Railway with the East and West India Docks. The directors of those commercial companies were themselves active promoters of the scheme. It was started in a quiet fashion, and the manufactures of the northern and midland districts were soon conveyed by the new line to the vessels which were to bear them to foreign lands. By-and-by it was discovered that there were reasons for supposing that a passenger traffic could be also developed, and then a short length of line was laid down, but very much in the light of an experiment. A dozen carriages and three or four engines composed the rolling stock; and thus humbly a flourishing and well-conducted railway was begun. Without attempting to trace the history of the concern from 1861, when the tide of fortune set in, we may say that the North London Railway has steadily enlarged its boundaries, receiving tributary after tributary, and absorbing and being absorbed by other schemes, until it can now boast of carrying something like 23,000,000 passengers every year. Although there is a vague kind of impression that the North London line is very useful to the public, the peculiar advantages it offers are but little known, chiefly because to understand them would require the mastery of the unpalatable difficulties of which 'Bradshaw's Railway Guide' is the bewildering representative. The North London carriages run from Broad-street to Kingston on the one hand, and from Broad-street to Southend on the other; but the system embraces a variety of other districts. The North London Railway proper terminates westward at Chalk Farm, but the Hampstead Junction Railway continues it to Kew, while from Willesden communication is had with the London and North-Western main system to the north, and the London Extension Railway to the south as far as the Crystal Palace. Thus, the North London feeds and is fed by the London and North-Western, the London and South-Western, the Midland, and the Great Eastern lines. Some idea of the utility of the line may be formed from the fact that on the day of the Oxford and Cambridge boat-race, although the trains only ran to Hammersmith, 25,000 persons travelled upon the North London Railway.

"The gradual increase of the traffic on the line is due to several special causes, not the least of which is the opening up of a suburban neighbourhood which has always been and ever will be popular to Londoners. The extension of the system, by means of the Hampstead Junction Railway, to Hampstead Heath, Edgware-road, and Kew was a good stroke of policy; for by it the northern heights of London, and the unrivalled Botanical Gardens on the banks of the Thames, were brought within easy reach of a large and growing population. These are amongst the facilities which have caused the traffic altogether to outgrow the accommodation. At holiday times some of the North London stations have long been considered insufficient for the crowds who have thronged them, and the time was considered to have fully arrived when reforms must be introduced. Dalston station, already one of the finest of metropolitan 'local' stations, is to be enlarged to accommodate the extra double lines which are being laid down from that point to a little beyond Camden-road station. The primary object of this costly undertaking is to simplify the means by which the Great Northern goods traffic is conveyed to the docks a Poplar, and thereby to release the passenger traffic of a serious hindrance. The new rails, which are on the north side of the line, will be devoted to what is termed local traffic—that is to say, trains which stop at all stations. The old line will be still used for goods traffic and all express trains. This doubling of the permanent way necessitates the erection of central platforms at all stations; and when the works are completed, as it is hoped they will be by the autumn, the North London will be the handsomest looking line of railway in the metropolis.

"The improvements now being made involve the removal of some well-known landmarks, and a general rearrangement which will decidedly work for the public convenience. Beginning at the farther end, Camden-road station is to undergo a complete transformation. Special trains are to be taken here on account of the importance of the position as a junction where Kew passengers, if necessary, change carriages. The present station is doomed to destruction. A spacious and elegant successor is in course of erection across the road, with entrances from Upper College-street, Camden-road, and a new thoroughfare, named Brecknock-street. This station, like all the others which we shall name, will be most spacious, supplied with elegant and ample accommodation of every description, and furnished with platforms, side and central, of an average length of 800 ft. The stations, as seen from the street, approach as near as possible to the style which builders term Italian street architecture, and the platforms are sheltered by broad flat roofs lightly and prettily ornamented both by the wood-work that fringes them and the iron columns which support them. At Camden-road immense cast-iron girders, about 144 ft. long, are being carried across the road, and a space of 6 ft. will be left between the new and the old bridges. Other new bridges have to be carried over Randolph-street and King's-road. A little further down the line is the St. Pancras junction, a point little known to the passenger public, but of the highest value for the conveyance of the goods which fill the acres of warehouses behind the work-house premises. Here the Midland lines pass underneath. In the transport of goods this is one of the busiest portions of the line, and the pressure is so great that the cattle-sidings have been lately set apart for goods-waggons. Three new bridges are being thrown across York-road, more generally known as Maiden-lane, and fresh sidings are laid

out. It is possible that by-and-by a passenger station will be required here, for which provision has been made. The present lines will have to be diverted somewhat to make room for the new comers, and to give room for a central station should one be resolved upon. This would not be necessary were it not that the Caledonian-road station is to be abolished. In its place a station about 200 yards eastward is being built, on the Roman-road, to be named the Barnsbury station; and it will practically be of more service to Islingtonians than the Highbury station, which has hitherto been supposed to be in the very heart of Islington. The removal of the Caledonian-road station will not cause much grief, for it was the worst on the line, and has latterly worn a decidedly tumble-down appearance. The Barnsbury station is being made on the general plan mentioned above, but with open roof and stained timbers. From here to Highbury the line runs through a severe cutting. London clay to the depth of 33 ft. has been excavated, and there are heavy retaining brick walls, the bases of which are 9 ft. thick. Along this distance the passenger exchanges the sight of blossoming-trees and smiling gardens which has claimed his attention on each side for a dull surface of dingy brick until Highbury is passed. Then the cuttings are reduced to mere sloping banks, and the prospect once more becomes open and cheerful. Highbury station still occupies its present site, but it is to be much enlarged and remodelled, to correspond generally with the others. One of the incidental improvements in this neighbourhood is a new street parallel with the line, between Liverpool-road and Holloway. To carry out the leading principle of placing the stations at equal distances, Newington and Ballspond station is to be substituted by Canonbury station, at Douglas-road, about 300 yards nearer Highbury. In anticipation of the benefits that will follow this change a new neighbourhood is springing up, and a first-rate approach to the station is being made. Here the New River has been diverted from its former course and carried over the line, not in an open tank as before, but through three monster pipes. This is the widest portion of the line, and here, as elsewhere, sidings must be provided. Parliamentary powers have already been procured for laying down an additional line from Dalston to Broad-street, so as to complete the four sets of rails to the end, but that portion of the work has not yet been commenced. Messrs. Mansfield and Price are the contractors; the Horsley Iron Company (Staffordshire) supply the ironwork; Mr. C. Pichler is the resident engineer for the construction; Mr. Baker, the consulting engineer; and Mr. Matthews the resident engineer of the line."

THE LOUNGER.

THERE was a notice in the papers lately of the death of Mr. Alexander Mackinnon, at the age of eighty-one; but no notice that I have seen tells that Mr. Mackinnon sat, before the first Reform Bill, for the rotten borough of Dunwich, Suffolk. This was once a considerable seaport, with a good harbour, and had six churches, three chapels, a Knight Templars' preceptory, a gaol, market-cross, &c.; and near it there was a Royal forest. But centuries ago nearly all of it, with the forest, was swept into the encroaching sea. Nevertheless, until the first Reform Bill swept away its privilege, although there were not more than a dozen poor fishermen's cottages left, it was represented in Parliament by two members; and one of these when the bill was passed was Mr. Mackinnon. It seems, no doubt, strange to the young generations that such a thing should ever have been. But before the Reform Bill was passed Dunwich was not a solitary instance. At Old Sarum there was no house, only a mound; yet Old Sarum was represented in Parliament.

I have lying before me the new bluebook for the people, comprising letters from our Consuls abroad, giving us information about the labour market in the respective countries in which they reside, with much other valuable information about the price of food, &c. My readers probably saw Mr. Holyoake's admirable letter in the *Times* calling attention to the book, and the equally excellent editorial article thereon in the same number of that paper. But there is one fact in connection with this subject, which neither Mr. Holyoake's letter nor the *Times* leader disclosed, which ought to be known—viz., that it was at the suggestion of Mr. Holyoake that Lord Clarendon instructed our Consuls to make these inquiries and report the results to the Foreign Office. Lord Clarendon's promptitude deserves the highest praise; but the idea was certainly Mr. Holyoake's. This book is not in the folio, but in the octavo form, which is by far the most convenient. It is to be wished, though, that the book were bound in cloth, as the United States reports are. Then, again, would it be too much to ask that all public libraries, mechanics' institutes, &c., might have these bluebooks for the people on application gratis? This would be one way of educating our artisans at a very small cost. They are bluebooks for the people; they have been paid for by the people; then let the people have them. Moreover, bluebooks are very apt to get scarce. Many members of Parliament, who get these bluebooks gratis, sell them to buttermen; indeed, ultimately almost all, or certainly the greater portion, are wasted. Let, then, these be sent to the libraries aforesaid, and there they will be preserved, as they ought to be; for they are not of temporary, as most bluebooks are, but of permanent interest. Will Mr. Holyoake suggest this, not to Lord Clarendon, for he, I apprehend, has no power in the matter, but to the First Lord of the Treasury, who certainly could get—and I cannot but think would be found willing to get—this done.

A gentleman named Birley turned up in the House on Tuesday night. He it was who moved for a Committee to inquire into the operation of the French Treaty, &c. He is member for Manchester—Conservative minority member. True, he was at the head of the poll; but, nevertheless, if there were no minority clause in the Reform Act he would not have been returned. This, however, is nothing to my point. There was once a Birley who did a notable thing in Manchester, for he commanded the Yeomanry at Peterloo. Can anybody tell me whether Mr. Birley the member is the son of the gallant yeoman? I ask this merely out of curiosity, and not to wound anybody's feelings. Indeed, if Mr. Birley be the son of the yeoman, I know not that he would wish not to have it known. In my young days the Tories used to toast, with enthusiastic cheers, the Manchester Yeomanry; and it is not impossible that a Conservative might deem it an honour to be the son of the commander of that notable regiment.

The second part of Mr. Dickens's new story, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," keeps up the interest excited by the first. The plot of the story is not yet developed, as we could scarcely expect that it would be; but certain new actors are introduced who are evidently destined to play conspicuous parts in the drama—notably Neville Landless and his sister. We likewise get a further peep into the nature of John Jasper, whom we begin to distrust greatly. Mr. Grewgious, "rent-collector by profession," and "particularly Angular man," is happily hit off; while the delineation of Mr. Honeythunder, the philanthropist, is in Mr. Dickens's happiest vein of sarcasm. Allow me to quote the passage for your readers' benefit. Mr. Honeythunder goes down unexpectedly to Clonisham to introduce Neville and Helena Landless (natives of Ceylon, with something of the tiger in their nature)—the first as a pupil of Minor Canon Crisparkle, and the second in a like capacity to Miss Twinkleton; and this is the result:—

Mrs. Crisparkle had need of her own share of philanthropy when she beheld this very large and very loud excrement on the little party. Always something in the nature of a boil upon the face of society, Mr. Honeythunder expanded into an inflammatory Wen in Minor Canon Corner's public unbeliefers, that he called aloud to his fellow-creatures—"Curse your souls and bodies, come here and be blessed!" still his philanthropy was hard to determine. You were to abolish military force; and animosity was to bring all commanding officers who had done their duty to trial by court-martial for that offence, and shoot them. You were to abolish war, but were to make converts by making war upon them, and charging them with loving war as the apple of their eye. You were to have no capital punishment, but were first to sweep off the face of the earth all legislators, jurists, and judges, who were of the contrary opinion. You were to

have universal concord, and were to get it by eliminating all the people who wouldn't, or conscientiously couldn't, be concordant. You were to love your brother as yourself, but after an indefinite interval of maligning him (very much as if you hated him), and calling him all manner of names. Above all things, you were to do nothing in private, or on your own account. You were to go to the offices of the Haven of Philanthropy, and put your name down as a member and a professional philanthropist. Then, you were to pay up your subscription, get your card of membership and your ribbon and medal, and were evermore to live upon a platform, and evermore to say what Mr. Honeythunder said, and what the treasurer said, and what the sub-treasurer said, and what the committee said, and what the vice-secretary said, and what the secretary said, and what the vice-secretary said. And this was usually said in a unanimously carried resolution under hand and seal, to the effect:—"This assembled body of professing philanthropists views, with indignant scorn and contempt, not unmixed with utter detestation and loathing abhorrence"—in short, the baseness of all those who do not belong to it, and pledges itself to make as many obnoxious statements as possible about them, without being at all particular as to facts.

The dinner was a most doleful breakfast. The philanthropist deranged the symmetry of the table, sat himself in the way of the waiting, blocked up the thoroughfare, and drove Mr. Tope (who assisted the parlour-maid, to the verge of distraction by passing plates and dishes on over his own head. Nobody could talk to anybody, because he held forth to everybody at once, as if the company had no individual existence, but were a Meeting. He impounded the Reverend Mr. Septimus, as an official personage to be addressed, or kind of human peg to hang his oratorical hat on, and fell into the exasperating habit, common among such orators, of impersonating him as a wicked and weak opponent. Thus, he would ask: "And will you now stultify yourself by telling me"—and so forth, when the innocent man had not opened his lips, nor meant to open them. Or he would say: "Now see, Sir, to what a position you are reduced. I will leave you no escape. After exhausting all the resources of fraud and falsehood, during years upon years; after exhibiting a combination of dastardly meanness with unengaged daring, such as the world has not often witnessed; you have now the hypocrisy to bend the knee before the most degraded of mankind, and to sue, and wince, and howl for mercy!" Whereat the unfortunate Minor Canon would look in part indignant, and in part perplexed; while his worthy mother sat briding, with tears in her eyes; and the remainder of the party lapsed into a sort of gelatinous state, in which there was no flavour of solidity, and very little resistance.

I am a vile calligraphist, as your printers know by painful experience; and, as I am persuaded that the fault mainly lies with the pens I use, I am always on the look-out for new and improved instruments. As a rule, my researches are not very successful; but I fancy I have discovered a really good pen at last. I refer to the "Nile Pen," just produced by Messrs. Macniven and Cameron, of Edinburgh, which just suits me. It is fine-pointed, flexible, yet firm; the ink flows from it freely, while, having a considerable fountain, one does not require to be continually dipping into the ink-bottle. I like it much; and have only one fault to find with it, and that is, it corrodes as readily as all other steel pens. I wish some inkmaker would invent an ink that would not corrode, or some penmaker would produce a steel pen that could not be corroded. I say a steel pen, because gold "nibs" are beyond my reach; and careless scribbles like me cannot be always wiping their pens, like those old fogies who boasted of having written whole books with one quill. If both or either of the desiderata I have mentioned exist, I have not yet discovered them. Have you, Mr. Editor? Meanwhile, I am grateful for the "Nile Pen," and mean to stick to it—till I fall in with a better.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

One or two things in the magazines for this month demand instant notice, however brief. *Place aux dames!* George Eliot has a long poem, entitled the "Legend of Jubal," in *Macmillan*. I can pass no opinion offhand upon this poem, but will return to it and the magazine.

In the *Fortnightly* there is a paper which has a very melancholy interest. It is a translation by Mr. Edward Herbert (dated Athens, Oct. 1, 1869) of a modern Greek poem referring to the massacre of Gaidiki in 1812. This translation will be eagerly read under the circumstances.

The *Contemporary* contains an essay by Mr. Matthew Browne on "The Subjection of Woman," which I mention because, to use a country phrase, it curiously "thwarts," while abstractly agreeing with, a paper by Mrs. Fawcett on the "Electoral Disabilities of Women," in the *Fortnightly*.

The *Cornhill* looks a very interesting number, but it reaches me, like *Macmillan*, scarcely early enough for full examination. The essay on "Social Slavery," by our old friend the "Cynic," exhibits him still on the uphill track—that is to say, it is the best paper of the series; but he is surely wrong when he says that anybody maintains that "eccentricity should be encouraged because it implies indifference to the tyranny of the majority." I never knew anybody to deny that eccentricity is, taken abstractly, a very undesirable thing, and that it is usually the sign either of a weak, vain head, or of a bruised nature. Suppose we shift the onus. The true rule is surely that everybody should be natural and truthful, without looking over his shoulder to see what other people are doing. If a man does this simply heartedly, and the result is something different from what is usual, nobody is entitled to call him eccentric in any blameworthy sense of the word. Let us take the great dressing-for-dinner question. It is perfectly natural that there should be a portion of some bright colour in the dress, and supposing a person naturally—that is to say, without any desire to fly into other people's faces—puts a portion of bright colour into his dress for the dinner-table, and does it with good taste, he has no reason to feel eccentric in the midst of a party of ten gentlemen dressed like undertakers' mutes. Mr. Reade's story has not lost an atom of vigour since its commencement, and it will be published in the three-volume form before the month is over. "Against Time" is excellent; "A Chinese Commissioner's Foreign Tour" is very interesting.

One of the most effective magazines of the month is *Tinsley's*. The essay on the constancy of lovers will do some good by its candour and moderation. The short story, "One Out of Four," is really capital; and "My Friend with the Quaint Ideas" is a quasi scientific paper upon the *Household Words* model, which well deserves attention. Mr. W. Black commences a new story which is full of the brightest promise.

London Society is, as usual, well up to its own pretensions. The "Piccadilly Papers" are always readable, if they are not strong. Mr. Sidney Laman Blanchard writes a sensible paper, entitled "Amateur and Professional." It is a very curious subject. Of course, every literary man now engaged in writing was once an amateur, and it would not be easy to describe that curious amount about an article which makes an editor say, as he pitches it aside, "That is by an amateur." Sometimes, no doubt, it is merely that there is a gush about the writing which is not welcome in general literature; but, after all, the verdict, "This is amateur writing," must be taken to mean "This is the writing of an amateur who will never be anything but an amateur." Mr. Tom Hood's paper, "Studies in the Field of 'Vers de Société,'" is much too short; but perhaps it is one of a series.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Hervé standing-dish at the LYCEUM is now preceded by a little delicate entrée by Offenbach. The trifle is called "Breaking the Spell." Mr. Aynsley Cook sings a pretty lament over a broken fiddle, and Miss Dolore sings and plays so well that I wonder she was omitted from the cast of "The Little Faust."

Beautiful Mrs. Wybert Rousby is supposed to be taking a holiday; but between you and me, Mr. Editor, I don't think she can recover the shock caused by seeing Mr. Frith's caricature of her at the Royal Academy. Mr. Frith! Mr. Frith! it really was too bad to vulgarise such a perfect, such a pure, such a refined face. However, whatever the cause, Mrs. Rousby has given up the Princess Elizabeth for a time to Miss Henrietta Hodson, and right well does this very clever lady play the character. Mrs. Rousby is so pretty that, of course, she is missed at the QUEEN'S; but Miss Hodson is a charming and thoroughly efficient substitute.

An attempt has been made by Mr. Byron to make extravaganzas popular at the ADELPHI, of all theatres in the world; but I don't

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

FIRST NOTICE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the protest of Mr. Gladstone, at the Royal Academy banquet last Saturday, against the partial disparagement of this year's exhibition, in comparison with those that have preceded it, there are many of us who cannot regard the collection of works of art now displayed at Burlington House as equal to that of last year. There are a greater number of showy pictures, and many more pretentious; but there are fewer of those exquisite works which leave criticism no resource but to express itself in adjectives; fewer, too, of those carefully-studied translations of the artist's thought which promise so much for the future of our English schools. It must not be forgotten, however, that last year's exhibition was exceptional; that it was the first year of the new gallery—a place in which would be at once a triumph for the aspirant, a joy to the Academician, and a test for the committee of selection. It would scarcely be fair to expect that the present collection should be equal in all respects to that of 1869; and, having once made this concession, we may well take courage from the noble contributions to art which now occupy the walls of the galleries in Burlington House. Adopting the order of the catalogue, and beginning with No. 1 in the first gallery, we have a capital example of Mr. G. E. Hering's style in "A Riff in the Gloom—Glen Sannox," in which cloud and wind are admirably handled, though the light in which it is hung gives an appearance of paintiness to the foreground. As Mr. Gladstone well said, the exhibition is remarkable for the number and excellence of pictures sent by ladies, and among them is a vigorous and striking portrait (3) by Miss L. Starr. In "The Rebeck-Player" (4) Mr. C. N. Henry has contributed an excellently-composed work, somewhat in the old Italian style, with fine subdued blending of colour and a wonderful perspective of an interior. Mr. Danby's "Scarborough from the Sea" (8) is full of a pearly-tinted light; and it may here be remarked that many of the sea-pieces in the exhibition are distinguished by the peculiar tinting—a sort of peach-bloom hue—displayed in sky and water.

Mr. W. L. Wyllie's "London from the Monument" (14) is capital in its rendering of the smoky, slate-coloured medium through which the great piles of building and ramshackle waterside houses are seen from that mast-high point of view; while Mr. MacCallum's "London Bridge and St. Paul's" (21) might be a companion picture, in the facility with which the lighter smoke and vapour of the river and the shore obliterate the details of the great cathedral and the transpontine highway. "The Death of Cleopatra" (16), by Mr. Prinsep, is a fine work, with a truly classical look, and without those unnecessary horrors which generally accompany this subject. The death is one of tragic dignity—the accessories almost worthy of Titian. Mr. Herbert's "Homeward after Labour" (31) is remarkable, less for its classical effort than for the strange but finely-rendered light over the whole canvas. In "Ilfracombe from Killage Point" (33) Mr. Naish has failed in giving "the first heave of the ground-sea" enough of a liquid character—a very usual fault, which he has remedied in another picture from "Enoch Arden" (185), representing the snatching of a child from the waves by Enoch. Here, however, the picture loses its interest from the clumsy—or, perhaps, too realistic and commonplace—attitudes and appearance of the figures. Mr. J. D. Watson's "Fishermen Shooting Wild Ducks" (135) is an admirably-drawn and finely-coloured bit of work; and Mr. Bottomley's "Feeding the Hungry" (36) is a capital representation of a girl feeding her flock of geese on a common. In No. 42 Mr. P. Hoil, jun., whose work in last year's exhibition excited much attention, has taken a broader and freer style; but he still retains the characteristic which, however it may have been adapted to his previous subject, is rather painful, and certainly not altogether natural under all aspects. His subject this year is a poor family—grandfather, grandmother, daughter (probably a widow), and grandchildren—preparing to partake of a homely meal, while the old man reads a portion of Scripture; and, as a fair critic remarked in my hearing, every face seems smitten with despair, except one that is invisible, of a boy who has dropped a book and stoops to pick it up, with an expression in his whole body that he will probably be threatened with perdition for the accident. The title of the picture is, "Better a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith;" but, with all its great merits, the evidence of either love or contentment is wanting to point the true sermon from the text.

Mr. T. S. Cooper, R.A., has sent some of his rare painting of "Kine in a Cattle-Shed" (47), and of both cattle and exquisite effect of sky and stream in "A Passing Shower" (61). Mr. Dudley's "Half-mast High" (50), showing the Monarch leaving Portsmouth Harbour, with the remains of Mr. Peabody, is one of those half-historical pictures which are attractive to a large number of people, and is very finely executed, with a true expression of the sentiment intended to be conveyed. "Playmates," by Mr. J. Hayllar, is an attractive picture of a child shaking a rose-tree, till the shower of red blooms falls thick and fast, to the delight of a kitten, lying in wait to chase them as they drift.

In the second gallery, Mr. P. Graham's "Afternoon Clouds" is a favourable example of the landscape art in the exhibition; while Mr. Stocks, in his picture of a little child kneeling to say its evening hymn by the homely bedside, well represents that pleasant and attractive class of small domestic pictures. "A Youth Relating Tales to Ladies" (77) is in that strange, pale, spectral style of classical art which is Mr. Solomon's chosen manner. Mr. A. W. Bayes has sent a very pretty little picture, "The Bouquet" (80), wherein the brocade dress, the old china, and the fresh, bright blooms arranged so daintily, are admirably vivid and full of suggestive grace. In "The Gipsy's Halt" (82) Mr. H. Weekes has painted an excellent realistic scene wherein the regular tilted cart, the house on wheels, and all the accessories of "a pitch" are truthfully rendered. Perhaps the loveliest of all the water-paintings this year is Mr. E. W. Cooke's "Venice" (87), with the legend—"The moon is up, and yet it is not night." The calm grey evening light, the clearness of every object, the placid stillness, and yet the exquisite sense of atmosphere in this painting, gives it a place by itself in the gallery. In the "Trial of Perpetua" (89) Mr. Goldie has scarcely risen to the mark and dignity of a large picture; and in "The Tournament" (94), representing a battle between two bulls of different herds, Mr. G. B. Goddard at first seems to have failed in expressing that vigorous action which the subject demands; a closer study of the picture, however, conveys a sense of real power and truthful drawing, which together make a remarkable work. In this room Mr. Millais's "Flood" (91) is, of course, the object of interest. It is full of that sort of power which only a great artist can convey in a subject not necessarily striking. In a wooden cradle an infant floats upon the waste of waters, unconscious of danger, and eyeing with pleased surprise the fluttering of two finches in the tree branch just overhead, while on the foot of the bed a kitten mews with apprehension. The light and handling are wonderful; and in a common yellow pitcher, bobbing about in the stream, quite in the foreground of the picture, the artist has displayed his marvellous mastery over the rendering of common objects with intense reality. A very suggestive landscape, with a sea-stretch, is Mr. M. Whitter's "Daybreak" (102), with lines which doubtless suggested the picture, and admirably illustrate it. One of the loveliest combinations of feminine beauty, pure drapery, and sweet fresh glow of colour, is Mr. G. D. Leslie's "Fortunes" (104), representing girls sitting on a flowery slope (surely, it must be in Surrey), trying their fortunes by setting the blooms to float upon a tiny stream which runs at their feet. One of them, in mourning attire, stands on a little bridge, and thence watches, half earnestly, the eddy which carries away the petals she has chosen to represent her future story. It is one of the gems of the exhibition. Next to this is

Sir E. Landseer's portrait of Voltigeur, the winner of the Derby and St. Leger in 1850; and just beyond (112) is Mr. A. H. Tourneur's interesting picture of Henry II. of France and Diana of Poitiers witnessing the death of a Protestant—a work in which the figure and face of the remorseful King and the mocking, devilish expression of the relentless woman are finely rendered. No. 118 is that already famous picture "The Death of Marshal Ney," by J. L. Gérôme, R.F.A., in which the poetry and the absolute truthfulness of the picture grow upon the visitor till they half enthrall him with the same painful sense of a dead presence which evidently leads the soldiers to march swiftly away in the endeavour to think that they have had no personal hand in the affair, and compels the officer to look round with a furtive glance over his crouched shoulder, as wondering if the shameful work is really done. "Water Lilies," by Mr. H. Le Jeune, is one of the last but most pleasing of the lesser pictures in this room.

The third gallery may be called the Academician's Room, for it is here that many of the great works of the year are hung, and among them the last effort of the hand so soon to be still, even before the canvas that it had made into a beautiful memory had been placed upon the wall for us all to see. In the wild, vigorous action of this scene, where the wounded Earl of Desmond is taken prisoner by the Ormonds, Mr. MacIse displayed all his old power with even more than his old grace of drawing. His pictures were never to be regarded as evidences of skill in grouping or in harmonies of colour, but they were full of animation and a freedom too seldom to be discovered even in the work of great artists. This, his last contribution, is an admirable combination of those best qualities which distinguished him. Mr. O'Neill's "Michael Angelo," representing the sculptor at work at night, lighted by a candle stuck in his cap, is a fine, solid, and broadly-finished picture. As much cannot be said for Mr. Hart's painting, representing the deputation of Jews to Ferdinand and Isabella, offering to pay the expenses of the Moorish war if they are permitted to remain in Spain. Torquemada, the fanatic and furious Inquisitor-General, is poorly painted, and none of the figures, royal or supplicant, are at all striking. Further than this, Torquemada is supposed to be saying, "Judas Iscariot sold his master for thirty pieces of silver. Your Highness would sell him anew for thirty thousand; here he is, take him and barter him away." With this the priest flung down a crucifix on the table. Mr. Hart has placed in his hand nothing but a plain black cross. Mr. H. Calderon, leaving his classical subjects, sends a charming picture, "The Orphans" (143), a girl playing the harp in the street, while her little brother stands beside her. In "Un Intérieur Romain" and "Un Jongleur," M. Tadema exhibits two of those really classical scenes which have made him famous. Sir E. Landseer's great picture of the meeting of the Queen and Prince Albert after the return of the latter from deerstalking, will scarcely gratify the loyalty of the public by its figures so fully as it will delight their appreciation by the perfect rendering of the dead venison and live dogs that are the real subjects of the picture. Mr. R. S. Stanhope has had one of his needlework paintings, "The Olive-Tree—a Pastoral," hung in this room; and Mr. W. P. Frith has contributed an admirable subject, treated with fine effect and genuine humour, "Sir Roger de Coverley and the Perverse Widow" (157).

In "Brimming" (159) Mr. Hook has gone out of his usual way, and shown us that he can paint, not only water and fish, but fruit, flowers, vegetables, and, notably, Dutch skippers, and their fair, blooming wives. The story of the visit of the little Prince Louis to the bedside of his dying father, Louis XIII., where, on being asked what was his name, he said, "Louis Quatorze!" is well told on canvas by Mr. A. Elmore; and Mr. Selous has contributed a fine picture of the "Wedding Supper of Katharine and Petruchio"—admirable in action and colour. Perhaps the most truly classical of the exhibition of figure-subjects is that of Mr. Armitage—a naked boy asleep on the brink of a well, and about to be awakened by a woman passing by. This subject, supposed to suggest to Æsop his fable of "Fortune and the Sleeping Boy," is finely painted, the flesh being wonderfully rendered, and all the accessories of the scene are in perfect keeping. Mr. Poole's large and striking picture occupies what may be considered the post of honour at the top of the room. It represents the story in the "Decameron" of Anastasio, who takes his indifferent lady love to a banquet in the forest of Ravenna, where every Friday a knight is doomed to hunt and slay a ghostly lady who had treated him with great cruelty during life. The terror and astonishment of the living lady, on whom the lesson is not lost, and the skilful rendering of the shadowy visitants, are the strong points of this powerful painting. There have been few pictures in our day in which the artists have attempted, to say nothing of their attaining, such marvellous flesh tints as those in "The Knight Errant" of Mr. Millais. The subject, old as it is—a nude female figure bound by ruffians to a tree, and a Knight coming to cut her bonds with his sword, after having slain one of her foes—takes fresh youth and beauty from the thoughtful, suggestive poetry of its treatment and its lifelike rendering. The face of the Knight, so grim, so earnest, yet with a stern respect and lofty tenderness, is in admirable keeping with the rather awkward manner in which, coming so that she shall remain half concealed by the tree, he cuts the withes that bind her fair limbs. The expression of the maiden herself, more of terror than of shame, and the exquisite sense of purity and innocence that her thoroughly human (instead of fairy-like or statue-like) form conveys, are all characteristic of one of the finest paintings in the whole range of modern pictures of the nude.

"The Trial of Richard Baxter before Judge Jeffreys" has given Mr. E. M. Ward a subject well suited for the display of his great appreciation of character, colour, and costume. It is an admirable work: historical, and yet with an interest that does not often belong to merely historical paintings. The Judge Jeffreys might be a portrait from the life, and the figures and faces of Baxter himself, Lord and Lady Ashurst, and others in the court, are equally suggestive of a scene that belongs to the most interesting period of those interesting times. With Mr. S. Carter's large and powerfully-painted picture of Herne's Hunt we must close this first notice of the great exhibition of the year.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF KEBLE'S EVENING HYMN.

There has just been issued from the Royal Albert Press (in connection with the Female-Art Gallery, Great Russell-street, conducted by Messrs. Fuller and Co.) a series of outlines in illustration of Keble's beautiful "Evening Hymn," which deserve a word of commendation. The drawings are the production of Miss Eliza Harriet Jeans; they consist of floral designs appropriate to the topics referred to in the verses, are very neatly executed, and form a companion series to the "Morning Hymn" issued from the same institution about four years ago. The designs and texts are both printed apparently from drawings on stone, and therefore we are the more surprised at finding a curious instance of misspelling, the word "through," in the closing stanza, being printed thus—"thruogh." This should be corrected in future impressions.

BANQUET OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—On Saturday evening the President and Council of the Royal Academy entertained a distinguished company in their new galleries, Piccadilly. The Prince of Wales acknowledged the toast of his health and that of the Princess, the Duke of Cambridge responded to the toast of the Army, Mr. Childers to the Navy, Lord Eliche to the Volunteers, Mr. Motley to "The Prosperity of the United States," Mr. Gladstone to "Her Majesty's Ministers," the Archbishop of York to "The Gospels," and Mr. Dickens to "Literature."

THE ENGLISH FREEMASONS.—The installation of Earl De Grey and Ripon as the Grand Master of the English Masons is now fixed for the 14th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. It is fully expected that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who holds the distinction of being a Past Grand Master, will be present on the occasion; and on the same evening the postponed festival, to which all Masons in "clothing" are admissible, will be held in the grand hall. None of the "outer world" are admitted to the hall, but ladies in the course of the evening are allowed to occupy the gallery, and these only on the special invitation of the Grand Stewards.

It is likely to find favour with anyone but the famous critic of the *Saturday Review*, who possesses the most extraordinary faculty for picking out very bad plays for praise. This ingenious gentleman is a paradox. I will merely tell you, Sir, that this superlative critic prefers "Darwile's Book" to "M.P.," and only the other day went into raptures over "A Dark Night's Work," "Princess's," to show you how extraordinarily tastes differ. At this time London must be heartily sick of "Frou-Frou." It has made a considerable fuss in the law courts, and this week was played in French at one theatre and in English at two. M. Lafont is admirable as Brigard, the made-up old father; but, as a whole, saving the dialogue, the comedy is as interesting in its native costume. Mlle. Leonide certainly makes more out of the rehearsal in the drawing-room (and this, by-the-by, was Mlle. Desclée's great triumph) than either Mlle. Beatrice or Miss Plessy Mordaunt; but the house at the PRINCESS'S is possibly bad. She cannot hold a candle to Miss Henrade, at the St. James's, who plays this sweet character charmingly.

There will be an important change in the Gaiety programme very shortly. A very old English comedy is to be revived, for Mr. Alfred Wigan's sake.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert is writing the libretto for musical pieces at the Charing-Cross and Gallery of Illustration. He has also adapted Offenbach's "Brigands," for the Gaiety.

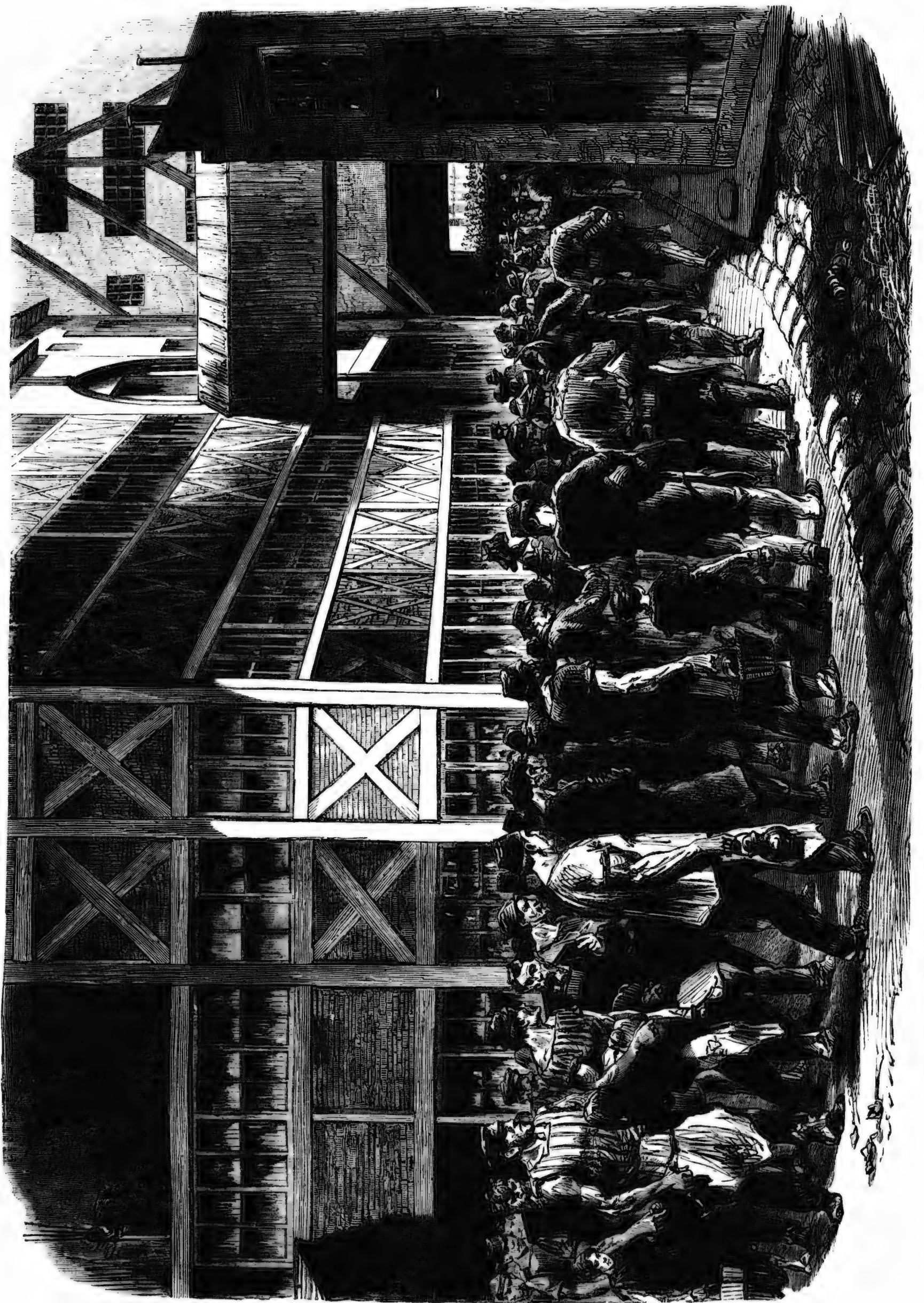
Cromorne and Highbury Barn Gardens are both open for the season, and offer ample attractions for the patrons of that order of establishment.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.

On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards amounting to £53 6s. were granted to the crews of different life-boats for services on the occasions of shipwrecks on our coasts. The Blackpool life-boat had gone out in a fresh gale and heavy sea to the sloop Sprightly, of Preston, which had stranded on the Crusader bank, and was happily instrumental in rescuing the crew of two men from their perilous position. The life-boat at Palling, Norfolk, was also launched last week, in reply to signals of distress shown, during a strong wind, by the ketch Shoreham, of Shoreham. The vessel being taken in tow by another ketch, the life-boat accompanied them, and saw them safely into Yarmouth Harbour. The Berwick life-boat was also happily the means of saving the crew of five men from the schooner Margarets, of Wighton, which went ashore at Spittal Point in a strong wind and a very heavy sea. Considerable risk was run by the life-boat men in performing this service, and a double reward has been granted them by the society. The Barmouth, Newlyn, and Valentia, and Arklow life-boats had also gone off in the past month to distressed vessels, but their services were fortunately not ultimately needed. Rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Altogether, the institution has contributed this year to the rescue of 347 lives from different shipwrecks, in addition to having saved four vessels from destruction. The society has now a noble fleet of 220 life-boats, and it contributes yearly to the saving of about 1000 lives. Payments amounting to £2100 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Captain Marquand, of the barque Matchless, of Guernsey, had collected the additional sum of £2 5s. in aid of the funds of the institution. The late John Roberts, Esq., of Jermyn-street, had left it a legacy of £200; and the late Mrs. Mary Greaves, of New Brighton, one of 19s. A new life-boat had just been sent to Kingsgate, Kent, the South-Eastern Railway Company having granted the boat a free conveyance over their line. The Boulogne Shipwreck Society had, through Colonel Sir Jas. E. Alexander, ordered a life-boat to be built on the institution's plan, by the Messrs. Forrester, of Linchouse. Reports were read from Captain J. R. Ward, R.N., the inspector, and Captain D. Robertson, R.N., the assistant inspector, of life-boats to the society, on their recent visits to the coast; and the proceedings then terminated.

THE DISASTER IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.—The terrible calamity which has occurred in Richmond is the second which has befallen the Legislature of that State. In the year 1811 some unusually interesting performance had drawn the Governor of the State and a large number of the Legislature to the theatre. The building caught fire and was entirely consumed, the Governor and sixty members of the Legislature having perished in the flames. On the site of the theatre was built what is known now as the Monumental Church, an Episcopal church, in front of which stands a monument inscribed with the names of those known to have perished. The Capitol, in which the recent accident occurred, is a handsome building, built in the style of the Parthenon, and standing in the centre of a park of fertile acres of ground. The hall of the House of Delegates is large, and finely ornamented. The Court of Appeals holds its session in a small room above this, the floor being about 30 ft. above that of the Legislative chamber. The present Legislature contains a large number of the most prominent men in the State, including representatives of its oldest families, who, many in other States who participated in the late rebellion, had accepted the pardon of the Federal Government, and resolved to interest themselves in public affairs. Governor Walker seems to have been in attendance at the court, and with the judges, to have escaped injury.

THE MASSACRE IN GREECE.—From additional correspondence respecting the Greek brigands and their prisoners, published by the Foreign Office, it appears that on the 21st ult. Mr. Erskine addressed two despatches to Lord Clarendon, together with letters from two of the captives, Mr. Herbert and Mr. Lloyd, and other communications. Mr. Erskine states that the difficulty in the way was still the claim of the brigands to amnesty or a free pardon after a mere form of trial and condemnation. Colonel Theagenis, an aide-de-camp of General Church, had been sent to them as an envoy of the Greek Government, and he had pointed out to them that these terms could not be acceded to without violating the Constitution. To this the chief replied that it was the nation which had made the Constitution, and the nation could not let it slide. There was some fear that the brigands would endeavour to carry off their prisoners from Oropos; but they had been warned not to attempt this, and meanwhile 600 troops had been collected in the neighbourhood. Referring to this measure, Mr. Erskine says that the danger to the captives of being dragged about the country was so great that he had reluctantly come to the conclusion that it was necessary to adopt a firmer tone with the brigands. Nothing would be done to provoke a collision; but force would be employed, if it became necessary, to prevent the escape of the band with the captives. The brigands, on the other hand, maintained that, according to the terms originally made with them, they were at liberty to move about as they pleased, and threatened, if they met with any violence, to kill their prisoners. Writing on the 23rd ult., Mr. Erskine states that Mr. Herbert was killed on the 21st ult., and the second body found was that of Mr. Lloyd. Mr. Vyner and Count de Boyl appear to have been numbered a considerable distance in the interior of the country. The bodies were mutilated. A despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Theagenis, and had been sent to negotiate with the brigands, states that it was on the afternoon of the 21st ult. that the brigands left Oropos. Troops were at once sent in pursuit, and the captives were then murdered. Six of the brigands were killed in the attack made by the military. A telegram, dated Athens, April 30, announces that the brigands are being actively pursued. The march of Euboea reports the following as the declaration emitted by one of the captured brigands:—"The brigand Alexis Basilio Tossini, who was arrested, states that the band started from a place about three hours' distant from Villa, some of the inhabitants of which places furnished them with food; that during the night they were followed by Slosa, on their way to Marathon, where they arrived on the morning of the day on which the capture took place; that they occupied from that morning the bridge on the Marathon-road, and were there when the carriages of the captives were on their way to Marathon; that the captives were taken in the afternoon on their return from Marathon; that from this place they went to two huts near the Pentelics, where they passed the night; that the day following two men in fustian dress, having the air of military men, approached the band, conversed with them, and departed; that he would recognise them if he saw them, but does not know who they were; that from there the brigands went to Oropos, and thence, by a concerted plan, they set out with a view to reach Agrafa with their captives; that they had come into contact with the Government troops; and that, according to the description given by some soldiers, he presumes Christos Arvanitaki has been killed. This brigand will hereafter undergo another execution; meanwhile there is information that this man, with some others, kept guard over the two ill-fated Secretaries of Legation, and that he himself is their murderer."



THE STRIKES IN FRANCE: SUGAR-REFINERS QUITTING THE WORKS OF MM. JEANTY AND DREVOST, AT LA VILLETTE, PARIS.

THE FRENCH STRIKES.

FRANCE, among other sources of disquietude, continues to be troubled with strikes; some of which are serious, while others have rather insignificant importance. One strike that has been threatened, but has not yet taken place, would be rather inconvenient to the fashionable world of Paris, the most fashion-following as well as fashion-setting city in Europe. We allude to a strike that was—and, perhaps, still is—apprehended among the persons engaged in the dress-providing trade of the French capital. Should this event come off, the fine ladies of Paris may be reduced to the dire strait of having "nothing to wear"—except what they have worn already. Meantime, iron-moulders, sugar-refiners, and other trades are on strike; and the men "out" have, in one or two instances and in more places than at Creuzot, shown a disposition to be riotous, and have had to be coerced into order by the military. The demand made by the sugar-refiners, some of whom our Engraving shows in the act of quitting their employment at the works of MM. Jeanty and Prévost, at La Villette—was for an advance of 50c. upon their wages. Some of the masters offered 25c., which a portion of the men accepted, and were thereupon mobbed by those who had determined to stand out for the full demand made. This was the cause of the disturbances mentioned in our last week's Number as having occurred on Tuesday, April 26.

There was a serious disturbance at Creuzot on Sunday, owing to the authorities having determined to arrest M. Assy, the fomentor of the repeated strikes in the district. While M. Assy and another person were being conducted to the railway station the people attacked the police with stones and other projectiles, and were only dispersed by a charge of a body of cavalry. We are now assured, however, that quiet has been restored, and that work is carried on as usual.

"A CAPSIZE."

Now that the fine-art exhibition is opened in Paris we shall be able from time to time to publish Illustrations from some of the principal pictures in the great French gallery of the season, and we could scarcely begin better than with that which forms the subject of our present Engraving, since the artist, M. Lejeune, has already attained a high reputation for his special skill in subjects which are familiarly attractive. He has taken high rank by sheer merit of execution. Colour and design are equally admirable in his work, while he succeeds in the rare quality of imparting a harmony of grouping combined with a wonderful sense of movement in the figures that fill his canvas. These gifts silence criticism upon minor details, or one might object to the expression of the boy who is in the cart as having too little of terror at the terrible danger which threatens the baby, which has been jolted from his arms. The countenance of the girl on the farther side is more in accordance with the sentiment that would be likely to be excited at such an accident to the helpless innocent, which a too-confiding mother had committed to her care. However, the remarkable action in the picture, beside the admirable drawing and that beauty of tone and colour which cannot be conveyed by an Engraving, place it among the foremost works of the salon of 1870.

THE EARL OF DERBY AND THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

THE Diplomatic and Consular Service Committee sat again on Monday, when the Earl of Derby was examined. He said—



THE LATE DUCHESS DE BERRI.—(SEE ILLUSTRATED TIMES, APRIL 23, PAGE 216.)

"I was Secretary of State for two years and a half, and have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the foreign diplomatic system. I took the system as I found it; and, though it worked well as a whole, I was much struck by the fact of the very few applications. There is much greater competition to get into the Foreign Office than into the diplomatic service. Still, there was no actual deficiency in the supply. The general impression of my mind is in favour of competition, because it keeps up the standard of the qualification. If you had limited competition it must be attended by a minimum standard of qualification. With respect to the social position of the persons who enter the diplomatic service, I think it very essential that they should be, in every sense of the word, gentlemen. I should not be inclined to think that the possession of a university degree would be a proper test for admission. It is not a test of very high acquirements. You cannot tell how a man will turn out. On the whole, I think the present system is a satisfactory one. Taking it on the average, the standard of qualification in the diplomatic service is very high, especially of those who have been in the service a long time. I do not think there is much greater cause for complaint with respect to the slowness of promotion than in other professions. I think, as a general rule, men in the service should be entitled to look for the highest posts in the service, but there should be a power in the Secretary of State to appoint outsiders occasionally. I do not see any way of

lessening what is called the block in the service. I cannot speak with any authority on the expediency of lessening the number of those attached to each mission. There is such a mass of conflicting interests to deal with that I think it would be very difficult to fuse the consular with the diplomatic service. I think the consular service might be better organised, and one great drawback is that there is no security that a person who discharged his duties very well would obtain promotion. I attach great importance to English diplomatists being in the same social position, both as regards salary and status, as those who represent other countries. We ought to be represented in any country by a person who holds the same official rank as the person sent to our Court from that country, and there is a political advantage in the fact that an Ambassador has a right of personal audience with the Sovereign when no other diplomatist has. By Mr. Rylands: I do not think that unlimited competition would be a good one. As a rule, it would be very unwise for a man of no private means to go into the diplomatic profession. The object of the Foreign Secretary is always to have a highly-trained body of men fit for the highest posts in any country; and, if there were no means of transferring gentlemen from one post to another, there would be a number of separate services. I do not think that there is any general desire on the part of the gentlemen in the Foreign Office to be amalgamated with the diplomatic service to the extent of supplying the posts of the diplomatists. At one time I was certainly of opinion that it was necessary that changes in our Ambassadors abroad should take place in accordance with the changes which took place in the Government at home, on the ground that, as the Government represented a different policy to that which had gone out, it was but right that those who represented it abroad should consist of persons who sympathised with them. That was my feeling on the subject in 1852, and, though I thought it rather hard on those who entered the diplomatic service, yet, if we were to have that system at all, I thought it but fair that it should be general and universal, and that all gentlemen who entered the diplomatic service should know that in all offices, beyond a secretary of legation, such changes were possible, and that diplomatists were liable to be removed from one place to another or suspended altogether from employment, consequent on political changes occurring at home. But during the last twenty years there has been a marked change. No one can fail to see that the tendency of the present age is to limit political patronage, and to encourage diplomatists to look for promotion in the branch of the service to which they belong as a reward for professional ability and activity. No doubt that is the better system of the two. The alteration in my views is this—I did not believe it possible seventeen or eighteen years ago, with the experience I then had, to appoint persons and keep them in their office who were opposed to the policy of the Ministry; but such a change has taken place of late years that it is now quite possible. I never make any inquiry as to the political opinion of the head of any mission. When I have to consider whether he is a proper person to put in a particular place, all I consider is whether he has professional efficiency. Those who went before me, and Lord Clarendon, who came after me, adopted that course. No doubt it is quite possible, and it often occurs, that newspapers contain earlier intelligence of political matters than the Government; but, at the same time, it can only be treated as a report. The policies of Europe are not seen at all in the newspapers on some occasions; and although some secretaries of legation are not quite so wise and prudent as others, yet it is better to have several long reports sent home than to miss anything important."



"A CAPSIZE."—(PICTURE BY M. LEJEUNE, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

MUSIC.

THE promised appearance of Signor Mario at the Royal Italian Opera, on Thursday week, did not take place, owing to the illness of that popular artist; and "Il Flauto Magico" was substituted for "Don Pasquale." At least the classical part of the audience found no occasion to complain, because they were treated to music in presence of which all personal considerations, as well as all opera of the school to which "Don Pasquale" belongs, sink into insignificance. The cast being as on former occasions, we need not dwell upon what was done. Last Saturday Cherubini's "Medea" was given, for the first time, at the Royal Italian Opera. Musical readers will have well in mind how this work was put on the Italian stage, some years ago, at her Majesty's Theatre. They will remember also what a deep impression was made by Cherubini's fine music, and how the work at once took rank among the noblest in our operatic repertory. Nor will they have forgotten how, in spite of wonderful beauty and the unstinted praise of those whose duty it is to lead public opinion in matters musical, the opera was rarely performed, because badly supported by the general public. Surprise and pleasure, therefore, not unnaturally attended the announcement of "Medea" at Covent Garden, a theatre which never took kindly to the masterpieces of classical art. Of course, the presence of Mdlle. Titiens—almost the only Medea—explains the directors' choice; but even with Mdlle. Titiens at command, the step would not have been taken in the absence of a belief that such works as that of Cherubini are more widely appreciated now than ever. To all who take an interest in opera the story of Medea is familiar, and they hardly need to be told in what a masterly style Cherubini has illustrated it. The music shows a wonderful grasp of subject, a grandeur of conception, and an ease of powerful expression which together place the Florentine composer among the giants of art. Only in "Fidelio" and the greater operas of Mozart do we find anything approaching to Cherubini's sublimity. Had he written nothing but "Medea" in opera, as Beethoven wrote nothing but "Fidelio," his place would still have been not far from the illustrious German. This conviction the audience of Saturday night must have generally felt. At any rate, they applauded the work with a heartiness both pleasant and encouraging. The performance was, on the whole, very good. Mdlle. Titiens was again a worthy representative of the terrible woman whose alternations of tenderness and fierceness she depicted with striking force. The music she sang admirably from first to last; her exceptional vigour enabling her to hold out bravely against one of the most trying tasks in opera. Mdlle. Titiens was frequently applauded, and twice recalled—honours fairly won. Mdlle. Bauermeister was an interesting Dirce, Dr. Gunz a capital Jason, and Signor Bagagiolo a fine-voiced Creon. The band and chorus gave little reason for complaint, thanks to Signor Vianesi, whose conducting throughout the opera was worthy of much praise. "Medea" was repeated on Tuesday, and the appearance of Madame Patti is announced for to-night.

At Drury Lane, on Thursday week, the opera was "Le Nozze di Figaro," a work happily familiar to everybody who loves what is best in art. Music such as Mozart has here written may be said to be above the influence of those who sing and play it. At any rate, a very bad performance would be required in order to prevent amateurs from enjoying its delicious tunefulness, and the easy grace, joined to consummate skill, with which all its details are worked out. The performance at Drury Lane, as may be imagined, proved the reverse of very bad. Mdlle. Sinico was as lively and vivacious as ever in the part of Susannah; her voice, however, seemed to lack its wonted ease in the high notes. "Deh! vieni!" was loudly applauded; and, indeed, an encore might properly have been accepted for it. Mr. Santley again personated the Count in a forcible manner, and again made a great effect with the music. "Crudel! perche," as sung by him and Mdlle. Sinico, had to be repeated. Signor Gassier's Figaro, and the Don Basilio of Mr. Lyall, were not less good than on many former occasions. A new Countess appeared in Mdlle. Reboux, a new Cherubino in Madame Monbelli, and a new Bartolo in Signor Castelli. The first was a performance thoroughly consistent with itself. Mdlle. Reboux had formed her own notion of the sentimental, languid lady, and worked it out in an artistic manner. Her "Dove sono" was marred by a slight failure of voice; but, apart from this, she sang the music very well—indeed, the entire assumption was worthy the drama and the music. Madame Monbelli's want of knowledge of the stage interfered with her success as Cherubino. The lady sang charmingly ("Voi che sapete" was encored), but threw no character at all into her part. Cherubino might well have been a woman in page's dress for all that Madame Monbelli made appear to the contrary. Signor Castelli's performance was careful and efficient. He evidently knows the stage thoroughly, while his singing of the "Vendetta" air strengthened his claim to be considered a vocalist. The band and chorus, under Signor Arditi's direction, did excellent work. The novelties—Mozart's "L'Oca del Cairo" and Weber's "Abu Hassan"—promised for Saturday were not forthcoming, owing to the illness of Signor Gassier; and "Rigoletto" was substituted. On Monday "Le Nozze" was repeated; and on Tuesday and Thursday "La Sonnambula" was given, with Mdlle. di Murska as the heroine. To-night (Saturday) Mdlle. Christine Nilsson is announced to appear as Lucia.

From Easter to the present date concert-givers have somewhat relaxed their energies, and this week there is singularly little calling for notice. Mr. Leslie gave a concert, on the 29th ult., in St. James's Hall, the staple of his programme being operatic airs and English part-songs. The former were executed by Mdlle. Ilma di Murska, Madame Trebelli, Madame Sinico, Signor Mongini, Signor Bettini, Signor Castelli, and Signor Foli; but, as they were all very familiar, there is no need to dwell upon them. Mr. Leslie's choir suffered nothing by juxtaposition with the foreign soloists. On the contrary, it seemed to gain, so great was the effect of pure vocal music, written for its own sake, over that of meretricious show-pieces. A concert was given, on Monday, in the Hanover-square Rooms, by Mr. Thorne, the chief interest of which centred in the concert-giver's pianoforte-playing and the performance of his own compositions. Mr. Thorne is evidently a clever musician, and likely to win a good place for himself. Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" will be performed for the only time this season on Friday, the 20th instant, at St. James's Hall, by the National Choral Society—conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin—when Miss Louisa Pyne will sing in this oratorio for the last time. Mr. George Perren and Mr. Santley are also engaged.

RITUALISM IN THE DIOCESE OF LONDON.—The interview between the Bishop of London and the leading Ritualist clergy of his diocese, which was postponed a month ago on account of the Bishop's illness, took place last Saturday. It is understood that the various matters in dispute were fully discussed, and the clergy expressed their views as completely and as frankly as the Bishop explained his. Nothing whatever was definitely settled, but the clergy present declined to make any further alteration in the manner of conducting the services. The utmost good feeling prevailed, and ultimately the Bishop said that if the clergy should hear anything further in the matter it would not be through the newspapers, but by way of private mention, at least in the first instance.—*Standard*.

A REMINISCENCE.—The *Siecle* publishes the following:—"Yesterday's plot reminds us of a forgotten incident of the débuts of the present regime. In the autumn of 1852 the President of the Republic went on a provincial tour to give the rustics an opportunity of showing their Imperialist feeling. The reception had been, so far, chilly; when suddenly the telegraph apprised the country that an infernal machine had been discovered at Marseilles, and that the 'Saviour of Society' had been providentially saved by the vigilance of the police. The announcement produced a good impression. The machine was minutely described. The timid began once more to tremble. The Presidential tour was henceforth triumphant. The police announced the arrest of the chief culprit, an individual named Gaillard. He was formally examined, and it was given out that he would be shortly brought to trial. The Presidential tour came to a close. The Senate proclaimed the President 'Emperor'; the people ratified the nomination by eight millions of votes, and the plot vanished into thin air. The infernal man and the machine-man, the conspirator and his accomplices, disappeared, and have never been heard of since."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, by command of her Majesty, held a Levée, on Wednesday, at St. James's Palace. The presentations were numerous.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES were present, on Wednesday night, at a conversation given by the Council of the Society of Arts, at the South Kensington Museum. A numerous and distinguished company assembled to meet their Royal Highnesses, who stayed from ten o'clock until after midnight.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN was safely delivered of a daughter on Tuesday evening, at Frogmore House.

PRINCE ARTHUR attained his twentieth year on Sunday. He was born May 1, 1850, and entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1867.

THE KING OF ITALY has returned to Florence, and is said to be quite well again.

THE KING OF THE HELLENES has presented to Mrs. Lloyd a donation of £1000 from his private purse.

THE MARQUIS OF KILDARE, eldest son of the Duke of Leinster, is gazetted a Baron of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Kildare, of Kildare.

MR. DISRAELI was offered £16,000 for the copyright of his new novel, "Lothair," published this week, by a firm in Paternoster-row. The work, however, has been published solely on account of the author.

COLONEL AKROYD, M.P., continues to improve, and there is now no doubt of his recovery from his recent accident.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE COCKBURN is still unable to preside in the Court of Queen's Bench, on account of ill-health.

A NUMBER OF QUAILS have located in Berks. They have been sprung in various parts of the county; and it is conjectured that these little strangers will remain in the south and breed this summer.

TEN HOUSEHOLDERS, summoned on Wednesday as jurors to attend a Coroner's Court, were fined £1 each for non-attendance, and notice was given to the proper authorities for levying the penalty.

MR. RICHARD TATTERSALL, the head of the well-known firm of that name, died at his residence, Beaufort-gardens, on Wednesday morning, at the age of fifty-nine. The deceased gentleman had been in failing health for some time, and the business of the firm has been chiefly managed by his brother, Mr. Edmund Tattersall.

IN THE CHURCHYARD OF HARMONDSWORTH, Middlesex, a few days since, the sexton was digging a grave of unusual depth when he turned up some silver coin. On further examination, twenty-five in all were discovered, dating back to the Stuart period. Part of a very old coffin and some remains of human bones were also discovered. It is conjectured that the coins were deposited with the body.

M. N. M. MANIACHI, one of the Greek residents of Manchester, heads a subscription for the widow and orphans of Mr. Lloyd, who was lately murdered by the brigands, with a donation of £50. Mr. Maniachi appeals earnestly to his countrymen to follow his example. Other Greek merchants have sent subscriptions to the proposed fund or declared their readiness to do so.

THE *Sun*, which has been an evening paper for some years, with varied success, is about to be issued as a morning paper. It is, according to report, to be the organ of the Roman Catholics, and it is rumoured that the working capital is found by a noble Marquis who has largely contributed to the charities of his Church.

THE HONOUR OF KNIGHTHOOD has been conferred upon Mr. John Morphet, President of the Legislative Council of South Australia, and upon Mr. G. S. Kingston, Speaker of the House of Assembly of the same colony.

THE STATUE OF THE LATE EARL OF CARLISLE, in the People's Park, Dublin, was unveiled, on Monday, by the Lord Lieutenant, in the presence of a large assembly, including the Dukes of Devonshire and Leinster, the Marquis and Marchioness of Kildare, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Howth, Sir William Wilde, &c. The proceedings were merely formal, and there were no speeches.

THE TRAMWAY FROM BRIXTON TO KENNINGTON was, on Monday, opened for traffic.

A COMMITTEE has just been formed to raise a monument to the memory of the great Reformer Luther, at Eisleben, his native town.

AN AMERICAN PAPER proposes "Justifiable insanity" as a convenient form of verdict in many cases.

MAY CANE IN VERY ROUGHLY, three thunderstorms, with snow and hail, having traversed the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire on Sunday. At night the temperature fell below freezing-point, and there was snow on Monday on the high moors.

A COTTON-FACTORY NEAR BOLTON, in which 40,000 spindles were at work, was, on Monday, burnt to the ground. The disaster is supposed to have originated from the over-heating of the machinery arising from non-lubrication.

ARTHUR WHITE, who attempted to assassinate Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P., was arrested, on Monday night, at the Maison Dorée, Paris. He was armed with a revolver when taken. An application will be made under the Extradition Treaty for his removal to England.

THE RACE FOR THE TWO-THOUSAND-GUINEAS at Newmarket, on Tuesday, was won by Magregor, the property of Mr. Merry; Normandy coming in second, and Kingcraft third.

AN INSURRECTION OF THE KIRGHISES has broken out on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The insurgents have taken the fort Alexandre, in one of the bays of the Eastern coast, and made thirty-eight prisoners. Troops have been sent from the western (Caucasian) shore.

AN EXCITING BOAT-RACE came off, on Monday, on the Tyne, between the veteran Harry Kelley, and John Bright, of Newcastle, the stakes being £200, and a level bet of £100. The race was very closely contested, but towards the finish a foul took place, upon which the referee decided in favour of Kelley, who was declared the winner.

JAMES BOYLE, a discharged soldier, and Martin Fox, a lad ten years of age, were charged at the Liverpool Police Court, on Monday, with garroting and attempting to rob an elderly gentleman named Wade. Policemen arrived in time to prevent the robbery. The man was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and the boy was remanded.

AN EXPLOSION occurred at Cochrin pit, near Merthyr, the property of the Down's Iron Company, last Saturday night. One man was killed, and another so seriously injured that his life is despaired of. Fifteen horses were also killed, and the pit was much damaged. Most of the men had left for the night, or the loss of life would have been greater. This is the pit where the rope broke on two occasions, killing several men.

AS THE CONGREGATION OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, West Holloway, was assembling for evening service, on Sunday, a gentleman named Fuller was seized with an apoplectic fit and died suddenly. The Rev. Richard Glover, the Vicar, took for his text Acts XX. 9-12, and preached a sermon on the lamentable event which had just taken place.

SEVERAL BOYS ON VELOCIPEDS came along Shooters' Hill-road, towards Blackheath, on Monday morning, and when they arrived on the heath one of them, named Thomas William Richards, aged between fourteen and fifteen years of age, a boarder at Charlton House School, attempted to pass a carrier's van. He fell, and the vehicle passed over him, causing such serious injuries that he died shortly afterwards.

A LARGE JESS, OR IDOL, has been sent home from China by Admiral Keppel as a present for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and has arrived at Sandringham. The figure weighs about 30 cwt., being made of metal. It is not of great height, but of massive proportions. The ornamentation is elaborate, and the whole details of the figure are distinguished by the painstaking minuteness which generally characterises Chinese workmanship.

A MAN NAMED PHILIP BURCH, eighty years of age, has just been fined at Barnstable for scratching with a needle the arm of Mary Stephens. The girl, he said, had had power over him long enough. He had suffered affliction through her for five years, and had four complaints on him at once. He had lost fourteen canaries and about fifty goldfinches. A hundred of his neighbours had told him that if he drew blood from the girl he would break the spell and escape from her power.

THREE NEW STATIONS on the City and Suburban line of the Midland Railway were, on Monday, opened for public traffic—the first from London is at Child's-hill and Cricklewood, to which fifteen trains will run to and from all stations on the Metropolitan Railway; the next at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, to accommodate the pleasure and fishing parties visiting that spot; and the next at Flitwick, two stations on the London side of Bedford.

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from April 1 to April 30 show that the month's revenue amounted to £5,941,765, or nearly £300,000 less than in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure had been £7,445,037, and this was more than £1,500,000 under the sum issued from the Exchequer in April, 1869. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £5,618,984.

SEVEN SUSPECTED FENIANS were brought up on remand, on Monday, before the stipendiary magistrate at Birkenhead, charged with unlawfully assembling for the purpose of training and drilling in the use of firearms. The men had been seen by the Rev. Mr. Morrow firing revolvers in a quarry. After their arrest, threatening letters were received by the police authorities. The magistrate dismissed the charge.

A WOOLWICH MECHANIC in constant work lately refused to bury his deceased mother; and, as the remains lay uncoffined during five days, the board of guardians, for sanitary reasons, undertook the burial. The son, on being called upon to repay the cost, refused to do so; and, in answer to an application on the part of the guardians, the Woolwich police magistrate has held that he could make an order to recover from the son the cost of maintenance only, and not the funeral expenses.

OBITUARY.

PRINCE DEMIDOFF.—The Paris papers announce the death of Prince Demidoff, of St. Donato. The Prince had been ailing for some few days from a cold, resulting in congestion of the lungs, which soon proved fatal to an enfeebled constitution; for, though but fifty-seven years of age, he appeared a much older man. The large fortunes of the family, laid out so well by the father of the late Prince in the wonderful Donato collection of art-treasures, recently purchased by the French Government, were made by the grandfather in working his malachite and other valuable mineral property in Siberia. The father passed most of his time in Florence and Rome, among the relics of the arts, of which he was so enthusiastic a connoisseur. He purchased, it is said, the title of Prince of Donato from the Pope, for the sum of a million francs. The late Prince Anatole was born in Florence, and, in 1811, married Princess Mathilde de Montfort, daughter of Prince Jerome Bonaparte and cousin to the Emperor of the French. It is stated that, irritated at this marriage, the Emperor of Russia put in force the law forbidding a Russian subject to reside more than a year away from his country, and confiscated the possessions of the Prince; but, foreseeing this, the latter had previously made over his estates in Russia to his brother Paul for an annual rental of 1,500,000fr. The marriage was a most unhappy one. There was no issue, and before long a separation was agreed upon. Since that time the Prince has mostly resided in Paris, where his bent and haggard form has long been familiar. The Parisians have called him, for some time past, by the horrible title of "Prince Décomposition." He will be missed for a while among the scenes of pleasure in the French capital. The Prince left, it is understood, no will, and his large fortune goes to his nephew, Paul Demidoff, who possesses already enormous wealth.

M. MARIE.—M. Alexandre Marie, a French deputy, and one of the Ministers of 1818, died, on Thursday week, at Paris, at the advanced age of seventy-three. A native of Auxerre (Yonne), he studied law in Paris, entered the Bar in 1819, but remained almost unknown till after the July Revolution. He was one of the advocates of the accused of June (1832), he defended Cabet when prosecuted for his work on the Revolution, and did his best to defend Pélissier, the accomplice of Fieschi. These were his *causes célèbres*. In 1812 and 1816 he was one of the deputies for Paris. The February Revolution brought him still more into prominence. It was he who declared the regency of the Duchess of Orleans to be illegal, and asked for the establishment of a Provisional Government. Being appointed Minister of Public Works, he had to create the *ateliers nationaux*, the organisation of which is often attributed to M. Louis Blanc. M. Marie has always represented the moderate Republican party, and was in this respect, as well as in his views upon social questions, one of the greatest adversaries of Louis Blanc, whose "Historical Recollections" of 1848, inscribed to Lord Normanby, give a full account of this attempt to create national workshops. M. Marie was also one of the supporters of the prosecution against M. Louis Blanc. At the general elections for the Constituent Assembly, M. Marie stood sixth among the thirty-four members elected. He was also elected to the Commission Executive by a very considerable number of votes. He was for a short time President of the Assembly, and was afterwards called by Cavaignac to the Ministry of Justice, which post he occupied until the election of the President. In 1849 M. Marie was not re-elected, and returned to the Bar, pursuing the profession till 1863, when he was again elected a deputy for the Bouches du Rhône.

MR. W. A. MACKINNON.—Mr. William Alexander Mackinnon, chief of the clan Mackinnon in the Western Islands, died, last Saturday morning, at Broadstairs, at upwards of eighty years of age, having been born in 1789. He was educated at Cambridge, and afterwards entered Lincoln's Inn as a law student, but was never called to the Bar. The late Mr. Mackinnon had for nearly forty years been a member of the House of Commons, and during that period had been a hardworking and useful member of that assembly. He was elected representative for Dunwich in 1830; and the following year was first elected as representative for Lymington, a borough he continued to represent till 1852, with the exception of the short Parliament of 1833, when he was an unsuccessful candidate. During the time he was in Parliament he brought in bills for the amendment of the patent laws and to prevent intramural interments in populous cities and towns; he also obtained Select Committees on the removal of Smithfield market, and subsequently brought forward measures relative to turnpike trusts and for establishing a rural police. On his son being unseated on petition, in 1853, for the borough of Rye, Mr. Mackinnon was returned for that borough without opposition, and was subsequently re-elected at the elections in 1857 and 1859. At the general election in 1865 he declined coming forward for the borough. Mr. Mackinnon married, in 1812, Emma Mary, only daughter of Mr. B. Palmer, of Palmerstown, in the county of Mayo, and Rush House, Dublin, whose large fortune and estates were afterwards inherited by Mr. Mackinnon in right of his wife, who died in November, 1835.

THE METROPOLITAN HORSE SHOW.—The programme for the great metropolitan horse show at the Agricultural Hall has just been issued, and the entries are to close on the 24th inst. It has been arranged that the show shall open and the judging commence on June 4. The general show will consist of sixteen classes, with five extra classes for harness prizes, as well as for trotting prizes and matches. A new rule has been introduced, prohibiting any single exhibitor from showing more than four horses, unless they are animals of extraordinary merit and by special permission; and breeders and farmers who show hunters will have a preference for stalls in case the entry exceeds the accommodation of the hall, in order to meet which there has been a large increase of premises. The aggregate value of the money prizes reaches just £1000, £365 of which, in addition to the Agricultural Hall Company's gold medal, value 25 gs., for the best hunter out of the four first prize horses in classes 1, 2, 3, and 4, has been appropriated to the hunter classes.

PASTORAL BY CARDINAL CULLEN.—A pastoral of Cardinal Cullen, read in all the Roman Catholic chapels of Dublin on Sunday, deals with secret societies—Masonic, Fenian, and Ribbon; denounces the "national" press; counsels the avoidance of everything in the nature of unlawful conspiracies or resistance to authority; eulogises Mr. Gladstone's efforts to legislate for Ireland; deprecates any attempt to drive the present Government from power; "in order to hand over the reins of Government to patrons, perhaps, and abettors of Orange lodges, always the bane and the curse of Ireland." The pastoral also refers to the recent proposal of the Fellows of Trinity College with regard to the opening of that institution. Cardinal Cullen, after noticing that the tendency of the present age is to banish all religion from the school, and declaring that "young men brought up according to this plan will undoubtedly go astray and be carried on to the abyss by their unrestrained passions," says that Catholics "cannot look on the late proposal made by the heads of Trinity College in any other light than as an insult offered to Catholics. He recalls the efforts of Irish Protestants, and especially the petition presented two years ago by more than six thousand graduates, in favour of maintaining unimpaired the Protestant constitution of the University." But even this system of mixed education, as Cardinal Cullen interprets it, is a boon that, laying aside the object in view, which is magnificent revenues, proposes to establish forty bursaries of £25 each per annum, accessible to all classes. He characterises this as a mere bribe to Catholics to enter the halls of the University, the education of the Catholics being still "confided to" the present "heads" of the colleges. "The gentlemen," he adds, "connected with this matter are said to be highly educated and Liberal; but the proposals they now make, and the changes they have undergone within two years, are of such a character as to give ground to suppose that they are men without consistency or principle or regard for honour; otherwise they would not attempt in so barefaced a way to make dupes of others, and to deceive them by delusive promises." In his reference to the Freemasons, Cardinal Cullen reminds those whom he addresses that Voltaire was a member of the order, and that Garibaldi and Mazzini belong to it. His denunciation of the "national" press is vigorous. He admits that the restrictive provisions contained in the Peace Preservation Act were necessary, and observes that these provisions have for the moment caused the obnoxious newspapers to moderate their tone. But the only permanent remedy, he adds, is for the people to cease to buy "these wicked newspapers," in one of which, he adds, that he not long ago saw a caricature of one of the sacraments of the Church.

POLICE.

AN OBJECTIONABLE HOBBY.—A ragged individual, giving the name of William Roast, was charged, at Bow-street, on Monday, with loitering in the streets at three o'clock in the morning, for a supposed unlawful purpose. Police-constable 585 deposed that he saw the prisoner, at the hour mentioned, with his head to the street-door keyhole of a house. Suspecting him, witness took him in charge, and found in his possession a long piece of thick wire with a hook at the end. In reply to the magistrate, the constable said he believed a door could be opened with that implement. Prisoner was asked how he came to be out at such an early hour in the morning. The prisoner, who interspersed his statement with a series of short coughs every time he hesitated, said:—"The reason I was out at that early hour is because I didn't go to a place of worship on a Sunday, when I always stay in doors. But I felt rather restless, and found myself sitting up in my bed; so I thought I would take a little exercise, and so I went for a walk at about one o'clock. I was then standing at a doorway, for I wanted to know the time, and I listened at the keyhole to hear the clock strike inside the house. The constable comes up, and he don't seem to be satisfied with my answer. And that is why I was out." The Magistrate: "I notice that you don't say a word about the wire." The Prisoner: "Well, Sir, I suppose that's my hobby; but I will be careful for the future, Sir." The Magistrate: "Well, I hope you will; but we must first see what you were in the past; so I will remand you for inquiries."

FRACAS IN A HAYMARKET NIGHT-HOUSE.—Mr. Pawle, solicitor, applied to Mr. Tyrwhitt, at Marlborough-street, on Monday, for warrants against two gentlemen named Asher and Charles Wertheimer, sons of Mr. Wertheimer, dealer in curiosities, Bond-street, for committing an assault of a serious character upon Major Hope Johnstone. In making the application, Mr. Pawle stated that the assault was of such a nature that Major Johnstone was not able to attend the court. The facts of the case were these:—Major Hope Johnstone was on the night of April 19 last at a house in Pantons-street, Haymarket, kept by a person named Concy, when Messrs. Asher and Charles Wertheimer addressed Major Johnstone in such a manner that he told them they were no gentlemen, and struck one of them. Charles then went to the end of the room, took up a tumbler, broke off some of it, and then struck Major Johnstone with it; and Asher also took up a glass, and, after chipping off the upper portion of it, struck Major Johnstone in the face with it. Major Johnstone attempted to defend himself—being covered with blood at the time—when one of the Messrs. Wertheimer struck him with a weapon, a stick loaded with 2 in. of lead. Mr. Canton, of Charing-cross Hospital, was sent for, and he stanced the wounds, which were afterwards sewn up. He had, therefore, to apply for warrants against Messrs. Wertheimer—one for stabbing with intent to murder, and the other for assaulting with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Mr. George Lewis, who appeared for the defendants, said his clients, having had notice given them of the present application, were in attendance, and were quite prepared to meet the charge. The application for warrants was unnecessary. He would suggest that summonses should be issued. He thought that course might be the more readily adopted, as he had to ask for summonses on the part of his clients against Major Hope Johnstone, who, it had been admitted, had struck the first blow—a very violent one. Major Hope Johnstone, it was well known, was a powerful man, 6 ft. 4 in. in stature, and had been in several disturbances, and the question was whether the assault upon him was not justified. Mr. Pawle asked that some evidence of the assault on Major Hope Johnstone might be taken. Mr. George Lewis objected to the case being gone into. After some further conversation between Mr. Tyrwhitt, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Pawle, summonses were granted on both sides, to be heard when Major Hope Johnstone is able to attend.

FORGERY BY A SOLICITOR'S CLERK.—At Bow-street, on Monday, a well-dressed, middle-aged man, named John Bingham, was charged on a warrant before Mr. Flowers with forging an indentment to a draught for £536 18s. 11d., and afterwards uttering the same. Mr. Wm. Montague Bailey, of the firm of Cave, Bailey, and Co., bankers, Bristol, deposed that he frequently employed a solicitor, Mr. Francis Edwards, of Dehacy-street, Westminster, in whose employ the prisoner was. Witness expected to receive in August, 1869, about £600 for the purchase of money off the Whelpy estate. On the 18th of that month he received a letter from the prisoner, and soon after became aware that £268 9s. 6d. had been paid to his (witness's) account at Messrs. Prescott's. Some correspondence took place with the prisoner, and witness afterwards received from him a cheque for the balance, £268 9s. 6d., which was not paid. The prisoner then absconded, and was not seen again by witness until the present time. The indentment on the draught produced was not in witness's handwriting. He did not authorise any person to indorse it. Mr. Francis Edwards was then called, and deposed that the prisoner was formerly in his employ. He showed the bill of exchange produced to witness, and he requested him to forward it at once to Mr. Bailey. Mr. Kinley, a cashier at the Union Bank, Princes-street, deposed that he cashed the bill; and Mr. Jenkins, a cashier at the Charing-cross branch of the Consolidated Bank, deposed that he received, on Aug. 18, £268 8s. 9d., the notes of which corresponded with those given in exchange for the bill of exchange. Inspector Nathaniel Dousovich apprehended the prisoner at Margate. On being searched, £15 18s. 3d. in gold and silver, £80 in bank notes, three cheques for £70, £40 in circular notes, 700f. in notes, 240f. in gold, and other money were found upon him. The prisoner reserved his defence, and was committed for trial.

THE BICYCLE NUISANCE.—George Atkins, 16, was charged before Mr. Newton, at Worship-street, on Monday, with riding a bicycle, to the common danger of passengers and to the obstruction of traffic in the Bethnal-green-road. Police-Constable Cornelius Egan, 368 K, deposed that

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on Sunday afternoon, he was on duty in the Bethnal-green-road, and saw the prisoner riding a velocipede very furiously. He was also circling about in the road, and obstructing the passage of vehicles, which had to be pulled aside by their drivers to avoid coming in contact with prisoner's carriage. Mr. Newton: "Would a bus pull aside for a cart?" Constable: "Yes, Sir." Mr. Newton: "Then why should it not pull aside for a velocipede? Was it a velocipede or a bicycle?" Constable: "A two-wheel one, Sir." Mr. Newton: "Well, that is a bicycle." Inspector Gee, K division, informed the magistrate that, on Sunday afternoon, there were nearly fifty lads and men riding bicycles along the Bethnal-green-road. Complaints were numerous, and the obstruction to the traffic was great. Mr. Newton said that the law upon the subject was now laid down, and should be carried out; and where a nuisance was caused they should be put down. The prisoner said that what the constable had stated was true. Mr. Newton then explained that bicycles might be ridden along the road without interference; but if, by riding round and round in the roadway, the traffic was obstructed, the riders might be taken up. He fined him 1s., or two days in default.

PROPERTY IN GAME.—A boatman, named Rae, was lately convicted at the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions of stealing a partridge. A covey had been shot at by a party of gentlemen, and the prisoner picked up the bird in a field over which one of the party had a right of shooting. The question in dispute was the condition of the partridge when it came into the prisoner's possession, and the jury found that it was in a dying state, and could not escape. They therefore convicted Rae of having taken the bird fraudulently, with intent to deprive the owner of it. On Saturday the Court of Criminal Appeal quashed this conviction. Five Judges held that a bird or an animal in a wild state was not regarded as property, and that it was never intended to make those who preyed upon game thieves as well as poachers.

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LABOURER.—On Monday, at the Uxbridge Sessions, a case was heard in which two carters, named John Saunders and Thomas Hammond, of Loudwater, Bucks, were charged with assaulting a toll-taker. Mr. Baker Smith, for the defence, wished to call one defendant to give evidence on behalf of the other. The Bench acquiesced, and Hammond was put in the witness-box, when the following strange colloquy took place:—The Clerk: "From what I know of this class of men, I think I must hesitate before swearing him. (To witness) Do you know the nature of an oath?" Witness (rubbing his head): "I dun'no what you mean." The Clerk: "Can you read—have you read the Bible?" Witness: "No." The Clerk: "Can you write?" Witness: "No." The Clerk: "Well, you know your name; how do you spell that?" Witness: "I dun'no." The Clerk: "Have you ever been to church?" Witness: "Yes, once or twice when I was a young'un." The Chairman: "We cannot take that man's evidence, Mr. Smith." Mr. Smith: "But, Sir, he cannot be so bad as that." "I will put the questions in a different form. (To witness) Now, my man, tell me, do you believe in future rewards and punishments?" Witness seemed more perplexed than ever, and did not answer. Mr. Smith: "Come, have you ever heard of a God or a devil?" Witness: "I

dun'no." Witness: "Do you know how old you are?" Witness: "I be more nor twenty." Mr. Smith: "I think I must give him up, your Worships." The "witness" was then ordered to stand down. This intellectual specimen of humanity (and there are many like him in Bucks) is in the employ of a Mr. Roberts, haydealer, &c., of Loudwater.

A SAD STORY.—Frank Coster, only nine years of age, was charged by his father at Worship-street, on Wednesday, with having robbed him of half a sovereign. Ever since the child was six years old he had pursued a system of pilfering from his parents. On the occasion of his thefts he invariably absconded from his home, remaining away whole days and nights, sometimes for weeks together and when returned to his home by the police, who had found him wandering about at night, he never revealed where he had been, how he had lived, or what he had been doing. It was known, however, that he had found his way among some of the worst thieves at the East-end. On the morning of the 10th ult. the prisoner's mother went out, leaving the boy at home alone. To prevent his escaping into the streets she fastened him out in the back garden. On her return, some two hours afterwards, she found that he had broken a pane of glass, pushed the catch of the window back with a knife, and so obtained admission to the house. He had then ransacked the drawers, helped himself to his new clothes and half a sovereign, and then left the house. From that time until the 23rd they never saw him. On the Saturday he was brought home by a constable. His mother bade him sit down till his father came home, but before that took place prisoner again escaped from the house, and remained away another week. Being then returned by the police, he stayed at home only for a few hours, and again went off. On Tuesday midnight Police-Constable 358 K found him asleep in the water-closet of a house in Whitechapel-road. He was taken to the station, and then to his home, when his father, tired of believing in his promises of being "a good boy," and hoping to reclaim him, gave him in charge. The boy was for a long time questioned by the magistrate, but nothing could be elicited beyond that he had been sleeping in the street, and had spent his money at a beer-shop. Mr. Newton decided on remanding him for a week, and promised to use every effort to get him into a school. The boy, however, is too young for Feltham Reformatory.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

BANKRUPTS.—C. F. and A. HIME and R. G. ANTHONY, Mining-lane, cotton brokers—R. C. D. SHAFTO, South Kensington—W. T. TURNER, South Hornsey, builder—T. and J. BARNES, Chatham, manufacturers—W. ARNSTRONG and S. W. BOWSE, Plymouth, grocers—C. BRETT, Bilton, draper—G. BROWN, sen., Gressend, farmer—J. and M. DOUGLAS, Sunderland, rope and paint manufacturers—H. HARNDEN and G. W. WHILDON, Salcombe, shipwrights—W. W. HARVEY, Aston New Town, licensed victualler—E. T. HESLOP, Sale, commission agent—H. HUDSON, Wolverhampton, traveller—W. H. JACKSON, Woodlands, chemical manufacturer—J. MACGOWELL, Penryn, innkeeper—J. MASON, Trade-street, innkeeper—W. MICHELSON, Spenny, farmer—J. MORSE, West Dean, Gloucestershire, coal haulier—G. PARSONS, Northampton, shoe-dealer—W. PEARSON, Hull, bricklayer—T. RUDD, South Shields, ironmonger—R. TUBB, Liverpool, organ builder.

TUESDAY, MAY 3.

BANKRUPTS.—E. B. COURTNEY, Ryder-street, St. James-street—J. J. SANDS, St. Luke, pawnbroker—J. HARRIS, Deptford Lower-road, carpenter—T. SHARP, Throgmorton-street, wine merchant—J. P. HEISTAD, Water-lane, shipbroker—J. W. CHESMAN, Plaistow—W. E. EAGLES, Aylesbury—J. HARVEY, Bawson, Huddersfield, plush-cutter—J. LEE, Newsham, grocer—M. WILS, N. Ulverston, shipwright—C. RYTHING, Openshaw, grocer—A. AFFLECK and J. K. CORRIE, Liverpool, grocers.

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